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**ISEKAI**

# **CANCELLER**

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chapter 31 - 40

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# Isekai Canceller

**Chapters 31 - 40**

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# Chapter 31 “Single? Double?”

Returning back to the wagon, Melissa greeted me while looking delighted. The sun had pretty much set, but in this dim alley her smile seemed light it up, at least that's how it felt.

「Goshujin-sama. How did it go with the inn?」(Melissa)

「Yea, for now the only thing they said was to wait here. I've been told that they would open up the front but ——」(Hitto)

After I told her that, Melissa and I turned to face the front of the building. But still, no matter how you look at it, it just seems like an ordinary stone wall. Exactly where are we suppose to put the wagon in a place like this?

As I was thinking that, *Gogogoo* a heavy noise started vibrating. As we were taken aback, a part of the wall in front of us... it split apart and opened up down the middle.

“It’s almost like a device from some dungeon,” Hitto muttered in his mind as he placed his finger on his chin.

Melissa was also staring in amazement. “To think that there was such a contraption,” she also wasn’t expecting something like this.

「How bout this? If it’s like this then it’ll work out, riight~?」

Within the opened wall, was the woman in a black negligee. Once she caught sight of her, Melissa was once again startled. I guess that was expected.

With an outfit like that, normally you wouldn’t want to be seen in it. For me as well, I’m having a hard time knowing where to look. After all this woman, her see-through bra and panties are in full view.

Let’s do the appropriate thing for now. Fixing my eyes somewhere around her shoulders, we began talking.

「Yeah, there’s no problem. You don’t mind if I just put it in like this, right?」(Hitto)

「Let's see~ I don't mind if you just shove it in wherever it can fit~」

Huh? That's weird? It was supposed to be a normal conversation but somehow it only sounds indecent?

「Goshujin-sama.....」(Melissa)

M-Melissa is narrowly looking over with eyes dyed the color of contempt.....  
No, you're mistaken. That's not what I was thinking!

Anyways, coughing to divert the subject, we took the wagon inside the building.

The wall turned back to normal and shut. Is this also done by some magic device?

While thinking of that sort of thing I took a look at our surroundings.

A lamp was hanging from the ceiling and illuminated the room with a warm orange glow.

It wasn't all that bright but it was good enough to see what you were doing.

Looking in front of us, there was a space divided up by fences.

I guess that's where we should put the wagon.

The space was divided up into 4 compartments, and only one of them was occupied

Far to the right I could see a staircase leading upwards. It seems that she came down here using that.

「Not many wagons come here ya see. So this place is pretty up empty all the time~」

「Is that so. Well, if that's true then it's convenient for us. By the way, there's no problem with us leaving the wagon here tomorrow, right?」(Hitto)

「No problem as long as you pay the lodging fee~」

I see, that's good then. I plan on using a skill tomorrow as transportation after all.

Well anyways, we climbed the stairs to the second floor as I thought about that.

「So, what will you do about the room~?」

Returning behind the counter, Hey, Don't go opening the neck of your

negligee as you say that! Dammit, it's not as big as Melissa's but this one has quite the pair on her!

Rather, Melissa is also at a loss for words. You're way too shameless!

「I-In any case, do you have a twin room open? I want to know the price.」(Hitto)

「Hmmmm~, Do~n't think there is one huuh~. The twin rooms are occupied you see. Right now we only got two single rooms or a double.」

「In that case I'll take two sing.....」(Hitto)

「P-Please make it the Double.」(Melissa)

H-Hey!

「Melissa, what are you saying? A double is.....」(Hitto)

「G-Goshujin-sama is the one who is acting strange. T-To go out of your way to rent out 2 rooms like that. I-It may be rude of me to say this, but we also have to think about our expenses!」(Melissa)

It's fine that you're desperately trying to sound polite, but if you keep fumbling on your words halfway through, it doesn't really help you know.

「Well, 2 single rooms would be 3000 Gold. A double costs 2000 Gold. It's true that a double is more economical you know~. You've gone through so much trouble so just make it a double okay~」

The woman said that with a grin on her face. What exactly is so funny!  
And Melissa is being stubborn. "We should be mindful of our funds," was her opinion.

If I had to say myself, it's true that we are in a pinch. We only have 82,336 Gold left.

It's true that when we think about it rationally, it is best to go for the cheaper option even if it's only by a little.

Especially since we will be leaving the wagon here tomorrow, it will be a requirement that we pay for at least two days of lodging.

Considering that, a 2 singles would cost 6000 Gold, and a double costs 4000.

Dammit! Even though we had 1 million just before noon today, and it

becoming 500,000 when I deposited it is just outrageous!  
But complaining about it at this point is meaningless.  
In the worst case it will just end up with me sleeping on the floor.

「Alright then. We'll take a double for 2 nights.....」(Hitto)

「Thanks for your patronage, that will be 4000 Gold」

I handed over the amount she told me.

「So how do meals and using the bath work?」(Hitto)

「For meals, the dining room is just down that hall~ and the bathhouse is just below that~ On your way to the dining room, there's a staircase heading down to the first floor, so just go down there~. For the most part, to the right of the stairs is the women's bath and to the left of it is the men's~」

From in front of the counter, the woman swung her chin over towards the hallway to her right.

「Anyone can enter the bath, right?」(Hitto)

「Yeeah, I don't really mind it. All the customers here understand that, otherwise they wouldn't come to stay here in the first place」

Grinning, she relaxed the corners of her mouth. The meaning hidden behind those words, it proves that shadow was telling the truth when he told us about this place.

In reality, this woman never once treated Melissa as a slave.

「Incidentally the meals are a separate charge of 500 Gold. Be sure to keep that in mind kay~ The bath is free though. There's some soap in the rooms so use it as you see fit. But be aware that dining room and bath both close at 8 pm」

The meals are extra huh. Well it's still cheaper than the inn we stayed at yesterday. Apparently a twin room only costs 2500 Gold after all.

「Alrighty then, there's the key to your room. It's room 302 on the 3rd floor, by the way the name's Annie. I'm more or less the landlord here. Well, if anything happens then I'll pretty much be here all the time. Well then, have a good night~」(Annie)

After she said that and waved her hand a bit, she went right back and fell asleep again.

Is this person alright? Incidentally, the stairs heading up, it was located down the hall opposite of the dining room.

Melissa and I headed up to our room.

By the way, this inn is a 5 story building made of stone. The front side of the first floor consisted of the area to park wagons. Marked off deeper inside the first floor was the bath.

The 2nd floor had the front counter, and past that was the dining hall.

The floors where guests stay were between the 3rd and 5th floors. Each floor had 2 single rooms, a double room, and a twin room. Also there was a studio room on each floor.

The studio room was a large room for groups of customers to stay in, so apparently they aren't offered to a single or a pair of guests.

Well that's how it goes, after climbing the stairs up to our floor, the room 302 was located immediately to our right.

The key was made of metal but, well, I guess that would be pretty typical though.

However, this is sort of a "special" kind of inn, so maybe it's to give the impression that it's safe to store valuables here.

The insides of the room were, compared to the outside of the building it was surprisingly decent.

It did feel a bit old, but it was unexpectedly cleaned with attention to detail.

It was also furnished with a toilet in a separate room. There wasn't a closet, but there was a wooden chest to put clothes and the like in it, so it was passable.

There was also a magic device that ensured that we would have lighting whenever we needed.

And, well, there really is "that" huh. Yea, along the wall was a double sized bed that was blatantly left there.

And Melissa is, she's all fidgety for some reason. Why is that!? No, it must be because she's nervous.

All things considered both of us are still too young. No, if Melissa told me her age I think she would probably be younger than me. As expected, in times like this it's the man's job the lead and..... Hey! No good, No good! What the hell am I thinking!? Just keep calm, Just keep calm.

「A-Anyways, how about we have a seat, Melissa」(Hitto)

「Y-Yes——」(Melissa)

Saying that we both sat down on the bed. Even so, maybe Melissa is starting to understand the things I hate, so she wouldn't sit in the floor anymore—— But, s-so close. So close that it's like our arms are glued next to each other. This isn't good, my heart is pumping too much! Dammit!

「Ah! Maybe I should just sit on the floor~」(Hitto)

「If you did then our positions would be reversed, Goshujin-sama!」(Melissa)

As I tried to move to the floor she hastily restrained me.

Kuu, thinking about it again this is really making me nervous. Seriously, what should I do——



As it is I had to do something about that tense mood, so I suggested that we take a bath for now.

It was only 6 pm according to the clock in the room after all. We should be able to make it in time for the bath and dining room.

The room didn't just have soap, it also properly had towels to use. This place is surprisingly considerate.

Melissa and I grabbed on to them and headed to the first floor. Handing the Magic Bag to Annie we went into the bath.

Annie said, "You're such a worry wart~" as she laughed away, but there are some things you really should worry about.

If we left it with the landlord who shoves a knife in your throat for waking her up then I'm sure it will be safe.

After all I did go and wake her up again. Melissa was so startled that she let out a little scream.

I'll say it again, this inn is pretty unbelievable.

Well, it's finally time for a bath. As I walked down the hallway with Melissa I said to her with a smile, "Be sure to take your time and refresh yourself".

「Understood. Thank you very much. However..... I am a little nervous. It really has been a long time since I took a bath by myself after all.....」(Melissa)

When they are together with their masters, slaves primarily go into the bath together with their masters. It was the main principle that they should attend to their masters by washing them and the such.

Of course slaves were not allowed to bathe at the same time. Separate from their masters, apparently they were only allowed to wipe themselves down with a worn-out towel.

Even if that is the rule in this world, I still can't help but feel uncomfortable about it.

She hasn't been able to go to the bath alone in a long time, so I want her to enjoy it to the fullest.

「Well then, I will be excusing myself」(Melissa)

「Oh, if you finish before me then feel free to wait in the dining room」(Hitto)

The plan is to have dinner when we're finished bathing after all.

「I will do no such thing! I will properly wait for Goshujin-sama to finish!」(Melissa)

She's saying that was a strong look in her eyes huh..... Well if she wants to wait then so be it—— It's just that I think I will be the one to finish first though.

Well whatever. After parting with Melissa, I headed towards the men's bath.

# Chapter 32 “A Bath, a Meal, and a Tan-skinned Woman”

「This is pretty big huh——」(Hitto)

Taking off my clothes in the dressing room, I opened the sliding door and admired the bath as I walked in.

The place was much better built than I thought it would be, it felt almost like a full blown bathhouse.

The entire floor was coated with tile, and although there wasn't a shower, it properly had faucets to wash yourself, and wooden stools were provided. There was only one bathtub, but it was so wide that you could probably fit 10 adults in it with room to spare.

There's no picture of Mt. Fuji, but on the wall, in my world it would be like guarding lion, an imitation head of a water dragon was installed on it, and from there hot water was pouring out and splashing.

.....And, well it isn't exactly accurate, but is it alright if I call it a tub? Well anyways, beside the tub washing their bodies, were some gentlemen briskly scrubbing their backs with a towel.

They entirely doesn't look like a nice guys. No, ever since I came to this world there's been nothing but bad and shitty people. Nothing but good for nothing sinister people.

Rather, a skinhead with a cross shaped scar... What did you do to get a scar like that...

Hey, you're scrubbing your head way too hard! There's no way it will grow! No matter how hard you scrub you can't revive the hair follicles under that scar!

The man washing his back, the middle of his body was also covered in scars. What in the world happened to give you scars like that?

In any case, those guys are busy scrubbing away and polishing their bodies so its a bit hard to go near the wash area.

I easily get involved with a bunch of troublesome things after all. It couldn't be

helped so I put some space between the grim looking bunch and headed over to the bathtub.

Although it looks like in the tub, there's a single person soaking in there—

「HEY, An-chan!」

What! It's happening, It's really happening. The Ossan with the giant scars coating his back, he looked over to me with a scowl while still washing himself.

This is bad, right now I don't have a weapon. Now that it's come to this, do I use Cancel? But for that I need to have the proper timing.

Well having no weapon is the same for him. If we squared off with the weapon between our legs then the big guy would.....

In any case let's make sure he doesn't make light of me.

「What is it? You got a problem or something?」(Hitto)

In an unwavering fashion, while putting strength into my gaze, I answered back in a low tone.

If we're gonna do it, then I also have to be prepared for it at the very least.

「Bastard—— Before you enter the bath you have to properly wash your body. That's just common sense」

「.....Eh? Oh, yes, you're right, I'm sorry」(Hitto)

I apologized as I lowered my head. And then, with an "As long as you understand it," he went back to washing his body——

Turns out he was a man with a tight grasp on good etiquette. I'm sorry for judging you by your looks, I really am.

Doing as I was told, I first washed myself and then once again headed for the bathtub.

「Ha ha ha, you really got told huh, Nii-chan」

And as soon as I put my foot into the bath, someone called out to me in an overly friendly manner..... Wait!

「Aren't you Mob-san!?」(Hitto)

「Sup, we meet again huh」(Mob)

Raising his right hand, Mob answered with a grin. And then with both hands he splashed his face with warm bath water

「Fuaa~ Baths really are the best huhu. It feels like 10 days of fatigue was just blown away~」(Mob)

“They sure are”, laughing back I sank down up until my shoulders..。

Yeah, it really does feel great.

It's really been a long time~ unconsciously I let out a deep Haaa~

But still——

「Nevertheless, I didn't expect Mob-san to be using this inn」(Hitto)

That's right. Thinking back, this inn was suppose to be like a place of refuge that Shadow told us about. Even so, he must be really well informed if he knows about this place..... Even though he's just a Mob.

「Well I heard about it from a friend of mine. So, every time I need a place to stay I always chose this place. The price is reasonable after all, and you don't got to worry about people giving you trouble」(Mob)

Well, at this place, there seems to be an implicit rule where you can't pry into another guest's business after all.

「And so, it was Hitto right. How are things going for ya recently?」(Mob)

Hmm? How I'm doing recently, let's see——

For now I told Mob about our situation aside from the information that seemed problematic to say.

「I see. Hitto's been takin on a bunch of requests as well huh~ But if that's true then shouldn' ya be close to a rank up? It might be cuz you've only been collecting Nankou Grass, but if manage to finish your job at the mines, then I think ya'll be able to reach Novice rank. After that, if you do maybe 4 or 5 Novice level requests then I think you could reach Amateur rank. Well, being an adventure just gets tougher from there though」(Mob)

So that's how it goes. In that case I've heard something good. This Mob really does teach me useful information.

It's just, considering that the request has already been posted, there isn't a proper time for me to utilize that information though.

『Hmm~ Hey~ You, You're a comrade aren'cha?』

And, just as I was talking with Mob, the voice of a woman suddenly rang throughout the men's bath.

Of course, the voice wasn't coming from my side of the bath, but—

I turned my head to the direction of the voice. It was from the other side of the wall.

A chime calling from beyond the boundary of this world, from Shangri-la known as the women's bath.

『But I t'ought that it would only be me today~ I was gon'a be all by my lonesome, I'm glad I have a comrade with me~』

『Eh? No, um, I-I am—』

『Com'on Com'on~ We're both girls so ya don't gots'a be so shy~ Should I give you a nice back wash~?』

『Eh? No, for me you don't, kyaa!』

『OOH! Ya got's some real nice goods here huuuh, mu mu muu~! I'm pre'ty confident in my own, but I lose to size like this~ Ya skin's so nice an' smooooth~』

『Eh? EEEH! No, that place is, wai-, Nn, Pw-pweaze don't~~!』

..... At the moment I don't know who one of them is. Yeah, I don't know but, the other one is Melissa.

Without a doubt, it's Melissa.

Rather..... What in the world are they doing.

『Somehow, it seems like there's a voice I know mixed in over there』(Mob)

『.....』

Yeah, that is because she's an acquaintance of yours too, Mob.

Hey! Why did the bunch washing themselves suddenly slow down! Their faces are red too!

『Heey~, by the way~ are you here for a special reas'n too?』

『No, that's not why I'm here necessarily.....』

Hey, this place really echoes well huh! Just how thin are these walls! Wait, now that I look at it, there's a small gap near the walls so that's how the sound leaks in huh—

And so, the woman with the really hard to understand pseudo-Kansai accent continued her conversation with Melissa.

That being said, most of the time I only heard the voice of the practically unknown woman so I'm pretty sure Melissa was also perplexed on how to respond—

But, a sense of playfulness and laughter gradually started to mix in with the mood.

Well, in any case, since it felt somewhat awkward to keep listening, I figured it was about time to finish washing up. Saying my goodbyes to Mob, I left the bath.

Rather, Mob really likes to take long baths huh—



After exiting the bathhouse I stood in the hallway for a bit as I waited for Melissa.

After all, she did say that she would wait for me if she finished first.

In spite of that, if I ignored her and went to the dining room beforehand then it would be quite cold-hearted

So, after waiting about 10 or 15 minutes—

「Ah! Goshujin-sama! Were you perhaps waiting for me?」(Melissa)

「No, I just got out a few moments ago」(Hitto)

When Melissa came up from the women's bath, I gave a stereotypical response for a guy.

There was nothing like a hairdryer so it was the same for me too, but her blonde hair was still wet.

That said, this is also nice. For some reason a woman with wet hair really is stimulating.

Since she also washed her body, the sweet aroma of soap also wafted through the air.

It really excites the male instincts— Although, what is that behind you?

「Ooooh~ so th't guy's Melissa-chan's Goshujin-sama ey? He's a pre'ty good one, ain't he?」

.....Yeah, this voice is without a doubt this the same voice belonging to that woman we heard in the bath a while ago.



「And, so. Why is this woman... Why is she sitting together with me and Melissa?」(Hitto)

While displaying a doubtful look, I sent a puzzled gaze at the woman who sat down on the opposite side of the table to me.

Since Melissa finished taking her bath, we decided to go to the dining room that wasn't too far off, but why did this woman come along with us.

She came out of the bath along with Melissa, and since she suddenly started talking to us in a friendly manner, I was a bit interested but... without even a hint of hesitation she just went ahead and sat down together with us.....

「Now now, it ain't that big'a deal. Instead of eat'n alone it's more fun with more people~」

She stuck out her right hand and flapped it up and down as she said that. That gesture really is like a pseudo-Kansai person.

But still, this woman, is she younger than me? I have the feeling that she's older than Melissa, but her skin is all tanned.

Her hair is black and reached down to her shoulders. With cat-like eyes she seems like the energetic type but..... it's more like, she's annoying.

Yeah, she's a noisy woman. That's the feeling I get.

Well, her breasts are... Like I heard about them in the bath but they're still quite..... Wait! What the hell am I thinking!

You're at fault too, this person. For some reason she came wearing a really lose black T-shirt, so loose that it looked like those fruits would naturally spill out. Have you no shame!

Well, that being said, with her dialect and "that" type of atmosphere about her it doesn't feel all that erotic.

「Hey Melissa. This woman isn't some acquaintance you know from somewhere righ-」(Hitto)

「Carana」

As I shifted my gaze to Melissa, and wanted to hear her answer, the woman next to me cut into the conversation.

And with a wrinkled and mean-looking brow.

「I'm say'n it's Carana, that's me. Calling a lady "this woman" is rude ya know. Be sure to remember it kay~」(Carana)

.....Without so much as a warning, aren't you the one being rude by suddenly taking a seat next to someone?

In any case I turned and looked to Melissa with a gaze that asked, "Who the hell is this person?"

But, it looks like she is also perplexed on how to act.

「Weeell~ I just met Melissa-chan for the first time in the bath huh. But since our circumstances are pre'ty similar, we real'y hit it off and became good friends ya know. Ain't dat right, Melissa-chan」(Carana)

She asked with a wholehearted smile on her face. "W-, Yes. Well..." Melissa replied while still seeming confused.

I feel that it was a bit forced though. So she's saying they're intimate buddies just because Melissa knows her name, is it.

Also..... their circumstances huh. Well, that is most likely a factor. Considering that they are both wearing collars around their necks.

「\*Haa\*, fine, enough already, it's tiresome. But you-, I mean Carana. Is it alright for you to be here? I shouldn't be one to say, but shouldn't you be waiting for your master?」(Hitto)

As long as she's visibly showing her collar, it's not like I'm breaking the unspoken rules by asking. Or rather, this guy just went and forced herself into our circle so we have no choice but to ask her about it though.

「Ah. You ain't got'a worry about that~. I'ma runaway slave aft'a all」

「I see. But even if you say you're a runaway slave... HAA!?」

I accidentally let out a crazed shout, and looked towards this woman with astonished eyes—

# Chapter 33 “Cancel Of The Night”

After hearing that she was a runaway slave, I was completely dumbfounded, but Melissa's expression was also dyed the color of bewilderment.

It appears that Melissa as well, she didn't know that Carana was a runaway slave.

Well I guess that's obvious, the only just met in the bath after all.

「C-Carana-san is a runaway slave?」(Melissa)

And in her surprise, while looking on with her eyes that were like round blue jewels, Melissa asked Carana a question.

「Yea yea, It's dat. Weell~ I sort'a up an' ran away ya know. So dat means that I'm a runaway slave repoor~~~~ting in」(Carana)

Raising her right hand up in a salute, Carana casually informed us.  
S-So laid back—— It made me seem stupid for getting worked up.

「B-But if you run away then the pursuers will come after you!」(Melissa)

Melissa raised a panicked voice. Bringing her hands together as if praying, she issued words of warning.

Her expression is... It's not one you make for someone you had barely just met. As if, it was the face of someone concerned about a close friend they had known for a good 10 years.

In a situation like this, I guess you can say that it goes to show how much loving kindness is overflowing in Melissa's heart.

「Ye, well, there's that too, but I'm doin' it while knowing a lot about that stuff. But, at dis point ya don' hafta be so worried about it. An' besides, despite how I look, I've been'a runaway slave for 10 days now. It means dat I'm pret'y good at runnin' away」(Carana)

.....That's quite the bold thing to say.

「Is it okay if I take everyone's order~?」

And..... as we were talking among ourselves a small child suddenly

interrupted, wanting to hear our orders.

What's this? Are they[1] helping out? But, they are sort of dressed like a cook though.....

「Oh! In dat case I'll hav'a extra big portion~」(Carana)

「Hahaha. Carana-chan really can eat huh~」

「Cuz ya know, the food here's reaal good. Must be cuz da chef's really skilled~」(Canara)

「Oh stop~ You're embarrassing me~」

Rotating the cylindrical hat on their head, the child embarrassingly laughed. They're attitude... Are they really a chef?

「Will the two of you have the same?」

「Eh? I-I will have a normal portion.....」(Melissa)

「..... For me as well」(Hitto)

「Roger~su. Oh, that would be 500 Gold per person, kay」

I handed over 1000 Gold for both me and Melissa, and Carana handed them a 500 Gold silver coin.

「Okay then, hold one just one minute」

Saying that, their cylindrical hat bobbed up and down as they trotted their way into the kitchen.

Why, isn't that kinda cute.

「..... Is that child going to cook the meals?」(Hitto)

I was somewhat curious about it, so I ended up mumbling that to myself.

「The hell ya sayin'. Ev'n tho they look like dat, they're over 30 years old ya know」(Carana)

「N-No way!」(Melissa)

「Are you serious!」(Hitto)

Melissa and I raised our voices at almost the same time, and in response to that Carana started laughing incessantly.

「When peopl' first come 'ere, they all have da same reaction」(Carana)

Yeah, well, of course they would. I'm sure anyone would be surprised. However, even if that's true, we've strayed a bit from the original topic.

「In any case, Carana, are you going to be fine? Of course, you had the subordination magic cast on you, right?」(Hitto)

「Weeell, a bunch'a stuff happened wit that. But I can't really go inta the details~, Sorry~」(Carana)

「.....Well if you don't want to say then that's alright」(Hitto)

There's a rule where we can't ask unnecessary questions after all.

「Weeell same for me, I gotta meet a real nice Goshujin-sama like Hitto. It might'a been a good thing that I ran away ya know~ Earlier Melissa-chan was all "Goshujin-sama~ this" and "Goshujin-sama~ that" and all」(Carana)

「Wha!? Carana-san!」(Melissa)

Melissa was beet red all the way up to the ears, she tried to forcibly shut Carana's mouth.

..... What in the world did you two talk about?

「Sorry for the wait~」

Yeah, the child-like cook came back with the food. Standing on their tip-toes, they struggled with a *heave-ho* as they placed the food on the table. Well, isn't that heartwarming.

And so, in the end all three of us ate our meal. Just as Carana said, the meal was far more delicious than what we had for lunch today.

The food we had was something similar to stir-fried vegetables, and a soup made with eggs. There was also some rice.

That said, the flavors weren't on the same level as some fancy restaurant, but it had an incredibly homely taste. If it's like this then you'll never get tired of the taste no matter how many times you have it.

Melissa also said it was delicious. When the chef came back to pick up the dishes, she even asked them for the recipe.

「Hmmm~ Who do you plan on makin' that for Melissa-chan~?」(Carana)

「T-That is—」(Melissa)

Restlessly joining her fingers, she glanced over to me.

..... An environment suitable for cooking, hopefully we can arrange for that in the future.

「Really though, Ya don't oft'n see a slave love her Goshujin-sama so much like this. Thanks for the passion filled meal~」(Carana)

While wearing a smug and mischievous grin, Carana stood up.

「I'll give'ya two some alone time, butting in anymore would be rude aft'a all. It's about time I take my leave~ But, it's been fun so thanks. By the way, are you two gon'na be staying here long?」(Carana)

「Etto」(Melissa)

Melissa slightly peeked over and directed her eyes at me.  
Well let's see.

「At the very least we'll be staying till tomorrow. After that it hasn't been decided but, well, if there's room then I plan on staying here」(Hitto)

「Ya serious? Hooray~ I've been pret'y lonely ya know. If ya don' mind, can I come talk to you guys next time too?」(Carana)

She clapped her hands together before her chest, and smiled as a sign of friendship.

With a personality like hers, even if I said no she probably wouldn't listen either way though.

But Melissa as well, she's looking at me with pleading eyes, like the eyes of an abandoned little kitten.

.....Well, gue's it can't be help'd. Damn, seems like it's contagious.[2]

「Whatever, just do what you want. If you're Melissa's friend then I don't really have a reason to refuse」(Hitto)

「Whoaa! Ya really get it~ Thanksee~」(Carana)

「Eh!? Wha!」(Hitto)

This girl, she's suddenly came and hugged me! Ah, there's a pretty nice sensation on my face—— It doesn't feel good at all!

「W, Wait a-! What are you doing Carana!?」(Melissa)

Melissa's baffled voice managed to reach my ears.

N-Not good! Just tighten your cheeks! Do not waiver!

「Oh, sorry bout that. I just, ya know. I get carried away pret'y easy so it was an accident. My bad, My bad」(Carana)

Finally, the two tanned mounds separated from my face.

A sad departure, no, what am I even say-, Upuu!?

「Y-You can't do that to Goshujin-sama!」(Melissa)

T-This is another feeling of being wrapped up, a tender softness. Also, a sweet fragrance—

W-Wha! Melissa is-!? Melissa's Boo-, i-is it okay for me to grin at this point?

「Oh com'e now~ Ya don't haf'ta make such scary face Melissa. I ain't gon'a go after Melissa's Goshujin-sama~. Oh, but I'm happy that you just called me "Carana" though」(Carana)

With an "Eh?", Melissa let go of my arm, and I parted with that soft sensation.  
I-It's not like I'm sad about it.

「For now on just call me Carana, no need'a worry bout formalities. I'll call ya with just "Melissa" too. Well then, the nuisance will take its leave kay~ Seeya lata~」(Carana)

Saying that, she waved goodbye and left the dining room.  
That woman is really like a storm.

「Oh! Goshujin-sama~ since your partner's a pretty lady make sure not ta be tooo much in'a hurry, kay~」(Carana)

You were still here!?

「Just leave already!」(Hitto)

As I barked back at her, this time for certain, Carana left the room.

「Seriously, what the hell is that suppose to— Melissaa?」(Hitto)

When I looked at her, Melissa's face was dyed the same color as a ripe red apple. She wouldn't look me in the eye.

.....It's all because of that meddlesome Carana! What am I suppose to do! Even though there's nothing left to do besides return to our room, the mood would only be awkward for me!

Kuu, What am I suppose to do now—

「Yeah. All right then, for now it's okay if Melissa uses the bed. I will just use the floor」(Hitto)

「You cannot! As a slave I cannot overlook having my Goshujin-sama sleep on the floor! If that is the case then I will sleep on the floor——」(Melissa)

Yea, I thought it would become like this. Yup.

After Melissa and I had finished our meal, and after parting ways with Carana, we retrieved the bag that we left with Annie, and promptly returned to our room.

It was already 8 pm by the time we finished eating after all.

And, it's fine that we went to our room but—— as I thought, the sight of this double bed is way too graphic. Frankly, my heart is already about to explode... “Then, I will be fine with the floor!” I thought it would work out but...

It was impossible huh. Melissa is entirely serious.

There's no way she would let me do something like sleep on the floor. Well, if I was forceful about it, it might turn out differently if I made it an order, but, I doubt that would work out either. If I did that I have a feeling that it will only end up with her showing me a depressed appearance.

Something like that would likely cause my relationship with Melissa to crumble, is what I think.

During our meal, and when we were in the room, unlike before, she did not sit on the floor like a slave normally would.

But, even so, this and that are two different things. No, it would still be abnormal in this situation for only one person to be on the floor.

Besides—— it will almost be 9 pm now. In this world without a TV or internet, there's only one thing to do at night.

No! I didn't mean that, I meant the only thing to do was sleep——

「F-Fine. Well, the bed is pretty big after all. I'll be sleeping on this side. We

have to wake up early tomorrow after all. You should get a reasonable amount of sleep too, Melissa」(Hitto)

Saying that, I laid down on the farthest corner of the bed, and turned around a bit before settling down to sleep.

If I looked at Melissa's face now, I have no idea what's going to happen, so I covered myself with the futon with my back facing her.

Now, there real problem starts from here. How do I stop this restless heartbeat.

I know! Sheep! When you're in trouble just count sheep! Lambs! Wool!

One Sheep, Two Sheep, Three Sheep.....

「.....Eh? Goshujin-sama, have you really fallen asleep?」(Melissa)

I am asleep. Yes, I am already asleep. Being a Wolf is bad, I am a Sheep. Getting the OK to visit a love hotel was all an illusion.

Embracing her will only end up in a slap to the face, and a-

「Why are you misunderstanding for? You're disgusting!」

I won't forget what happened that summer.

Then, the soft sound of something lightly falling to the ground reached my ears.

Afterwards, "I will be turning off the lights, okay," those words came from Melissa's mouth, and the only thing I could see was the darkness from behind my eyelids.

「Goshujin-sama, please excuse me——」(Melissa)

Lifting up the futon, with a rustling sound, Melissa slowly crawled inside.

「..... Goshujin-sama wouldn't get angry at this much, right? Your back—— I will be borrowing it.....」(Melissa)

23 Sheep, 24 Sheep..... Hey! Why is there the sensation of two soft fruit on my back!? Damn it! Calm down, only sheep, 25 Sheep, 27 Boobs-, That's not right!! The Hell am I thinking! Just Calm Down! I know, Cancel! Cancel these earthly desires!

CANCEL CANCEL CANCEL CANCEL CANCEL CANCEL CANCEL CANCEL CANCEL

CANCEL CANCEL CANNNNCCCIEEEELL!

TL Extra note: Cancel solves everything... or maybe not.

1.

TL Note: The child's gender is never actually stated, I assume it's a He/Male but we'll go with "They" for now because you can't assume gender in 2016, or something.

2.

TL note: Here Hitto did a slight accent, like Carana always does.

# Chapter 34 “Waking Up to Melissa’s Voice”

「Goshujin-sama~ Please wake up~. It is morning~」

What woke me up was Melissa’s gentle movements, and a soothing voice that brushed against my ear.

It seems like I was able to get a bit of sleep somehow. Last night was truly dangerous.

At first I thought I would need my entire willpower to Cancel my earthly desires, but in the middle of it all Melissa started moving a bit in her sleep. Those soft cushions were being rubbed against my back.

And, if that wasn’t enough, half way through she started sleep talking in a really seductive voice. Geez, so many things were dangerous.

Even so, I didn’t lose! I didn’t lose you hear! Good for me!

「Good morning, Melissa. Thanks for waking me u-Fua!?」(Hitto)

For the moment I sat up, and I turned to face Melissa but—— O-Only a bra. My eyes unconsciously looked in that direction and I ended up raising my voice in surprise.

「AH!? I-I am sorry! For me to show you such an unsightly appearance——」  
(Melissa)

Saying that, Melissa was panicking as she covered herself with the futon. No, far from being unsightly, it was more like ‘Thank you for the feast so early in the morning,’ but..... I see, that sound from yesterday was Melissa taking off her dress huh——

「Umm, since it is a dress that Goshujin-sama went through great troubles to lend me, I should not let it get wrinkled, is what I thought.....」(Melissa)

Hiding her face, while looking embarrassed, Melissa gave a rather noble reason for her appearance. First thing in the morning, I am already close to being K.O.-ed.

「I-I see. Well, I’m happy that you value it so highly. But staying like that will be pretty bad, I’ll look somewhere else so please get changed」(Hitto)

I swiftly turned around and told Melissa with my back facing her.

「If it was Goshujin-sama then it would be fine if you looked though.....」  
(Melissa)

A quiet rebuttal came from behind me. No, I bet it was just some residual feelings from when she was treated as a slave. That must be it.

Whatever the case may be, Melissa finished getting dressed, and after I equipped the magic bag, we both washed our faces and headed towards the dining room.

We paid 1,000 Gold for breakfast but, to think we would have toast and sunny-side-up eggs.

I'm grateful that it's a simple meal. It even came with milk.

Jam and butter was also prepared for our use, it was truly an ordinary meal.

And so, leaving the wagon at the inn, Melissa and I headed for the Aloe Forest.

The request from yesterday was somewhat on my mind, but it was still early in the morning.

Right now it was 6 am, and although the gates are open at 5, apparently the Guild doesn't open until 7 unless there is some special reason for it.

Well, that's the way things are, so today we're heading a bit early to the Aloe Forest to gather some Nankou Grass. I plan on starting Dowan's request after we get back.

「Hey, tha two of ya. If yur up this early, is it a request?」

The Aloe Forest is close to the Western gate.

I thought we might run into him because of that, but the one to call out to us was Daimon.

As expected of him, he seems even more unkempt than yesterday.

Well, it might become troublesome if I ignore him so I might as well reply.

「Yea, we a small request at the Aloe Forest after all」(Hitto)

「Aloe? Even though you own a wagon that you would go as far as to head into the slums for? The only bunch that go there are Beginners and Amateurs

who will never rank up ya know? Don't cha have a pretty high rank though?」(Daimon)

..... In this situation I can't really say that I'm actually Beginner rank huh.

「Well, an acquaintance asked me for something you see. I'm just running a couple of errands」(Hitto)

「Hmmm, sure sounds like alota work, being an adventurer that is. As I thought, living the comfy life as a gatekeeper is much better. We get a pretty high salary afta all, it even comes with plenty of benefits」(Daimon)

..... This guy has a real nasty face when he laughs huh. I wonder, is he somehow related to the bank?

No, if he was then he wouldn't be doing this kind of job.

「If you need any info then feel free to come ta me anytime. That's if ya can pay the compensation of course」(Daimon)

Taking note of that, Melissa and I gave a slight bow, and departed towards the gate.

「Goshujin-sama has the ability to grasp a person's nature as well, is that correct. I believe that to be amazing」(Melissa)

Melissa looked at me with a gaze of admiration as she said that. I didn't intend for it coming off as some sort of big deal though.

Well that's fine. In any case, after we reached an area where we couldn't be seen from the gate, I took Melissa's hand and used Step Cancel to jump to the Aloe Forest.

We made it to the forest without a hitch.

Since we came here so early, there won't be too many people here right? I had that thought, but I was naive.

I can't say it was around 100, but there was at least 30 people harvesting herbs in a single place.

For some reason, there seems to be a glimmering look in everyone's eyes. Nonetheless, the merchant who is amassing so much Nankou Grass must be doing pretty well off.

This place is pretty much like an assembly line in some factory. Adventurers obediently come here day after day and bring back ingredients for medicine after all.

Since only a Dragger can make medicine this is the best they can do huh.

Well, as I thought about those type of things, we went over to the place from yesterday that had bountiful herbs.

And, I was planning on harvesting them with Melissa, but-

「Hey! You bastards!」

「Who said you could harvest here!」

「This is our territo——」

「Yeah, Yeah. Cancel, Cancel, and Cancel」(Hitto)

As I sung a tune of rhythmic Cancels, the Three Stars retreated back to the city.

Well, you can consider it punishment for monopolizing this place by your own accord. You won't be able to take everything for yourselves from now on.

「Okay then, Melissa. We still have Dowan's request to do so let's finish things up quickly」(Hitto)

「Yes, Goshujin-sama」(Melissa)

And so along with Melissa, we started plucking up Nankou Grass one by one just like we did yesterday.

All things considered..... Although I don't want to remember it, because of the bank my funds have pretty much reached rock bottom.

There's no point in mentioning it now, but that's how things are so it can't be helped.

The 1 million Gold won't come back, and it's hopeless to try and get the 500,000 Gold within the time limit.

..... Well, that said, I might as well give it a try when we finish up and head back to the city.

Thinking that, I was soothed by the sight of Melissa trying her hardest, and I continued to pick more Nankou Grass, but——

「H-Hey, this place.....」

「Are you serious, those guys really aren't here」

..... Melissa and I, I suppose we have been collecting Nankou Grass for about an hour now.

Around us a bunch of other adventurers started to gather, they were all gazing at the luscious area with mouths gaping open.

And from among them came a single person, a man who by the looks of it seemed like a youthful soldier. He came close to me and asked a question.

「Hey, this place is suppose to be the territory of those Green Three Stars but, will you two really be all right just blatantly harvesting Nankou Grass here?」

.....I'm in a bit of a pinch. It seems like he might of seen us yesterday, or perhaps they noticed just now.

Either way the other adventurers seem to be lured to this place.

Now then, what should I do. I can't exactly tell them the whole truth after all.

「Oh, you mean those guys. Since they were so arrogant and decided things on their own, I voiced a complain and made them go back. So there's no problem.」(Hitto)

For now let's just go with something like that.

「Made them go back, you did? I saw it yesterday, but if I remember you are a Beginner who just registered right?」

A different person cut into the conversation. So they saw me huh. That makes things somewhat troublesome.

「It's no problem. That bunch weren't much of a big deal anyways」(Hitto)

「No, to say they aren't a big deal..... Those three were Manager rank you know?」

「Even so, compared to Goshujin-sama, those type of outlandish people pose no such threat. Without being able to do anything, they were sent back to town in low spirits」(Melissa)

Melissa proudly declared as she followed up for me.

It came off as a bit boastful though. Personally I don't think it was anything special.

「I'm not all that amazing. Just think about it for a bit, those three were able to raise their ranks by doing nothing but harvesting Nankou Grass. It's not like their rank is reflective of their individual skills. If you all put your minds to it then I bet you could do that same thing I did. Aren't you just too overwhelmed by the thought of going against a Manager rank?」(Hitto)

‘But Goshujin-sama is more than-!’ Melissa was about to interrupt but I held her back with my hand.

And it is certainly true that that bunch aren’t much of a big deal.  
I can tell by looking at their equipment.

「Saying that those three aren’t a big deal, you can’t be serious.....」

「But if you think about it, I don’t think I’ve seen those three ever fight before.....」

「When one of them tried to flirt with me, they were really persistent so I slapped them in the face on reflex. I remember them getting all teary-eyed after that」

「Wait... aren’t you a guy though.....」

For some reason it got really noisy around her huh. Hey wait, there’s way too many adventurers—

「.....Either way it looks like those three aren’t here, so it must be true you sent them away—— By the way, I’d like to ask something, if what you say is true then is it all right for all of us to harvest here too?」

.....As I thought, we ended up at this topic huh.

‘Goshujin-sama——’ Melissa lowered her brow as she muttered those words, but the answer has already been decided.

「Yeah, go ahead. Take as much as you like. This forest and this place doesn’t belong to anyone after all. I have no right to complain if you do」(Hitto)

Upon hearing my reply the adventurers raised a joyous cheer.

In a quiet voice Melissa asked, “Is this truly all right, Goshujin-sama?” but I nodded my head telling her it was fine

With a warm smile Melissa replied with an, “Is that so.”

Perhaps Melissa understood the way I felt.

If I were to reply to them with “Buzz off, it’s mine!” then I wouldn’t be any

different than those three.

Yeah, but still, the adventurers came forth all at once. The way things are it will be impossible to harvest any more. It can't be helped. Melissa and I separated from the scene, and headed back to the Guild.

「Today nya came with less -nyan」(Nyanko)

「Well, a couple of things happened you see. How much will we get for this much?」(Hitto)

「Everything adds up to a perfect 6 kilos -nyan. Nyat would be 30,000 Gold -nyan」(Nyanko)

.....That's inevitable I guess.

「Okay. And so, how goes things with the request?」(Hitto)

「The written request for that is completed -nyan. I'll hand it to nya over at the counter -nyan」(Nyanko)

Replying with, "Yeah, I'll leave it to you," I went over to the front counter. Together with Melissa, we listened to the contents of the request.

### Contracted Request

▪Transporting Iron Ore and Magic Stones

Requirements: Designated for the Adventurer Hitto

Details: From the Mount Stone Mines

▪Iron Ore 3 kg

▪Earth Magic Stone 1 kg

▪Fire Magic Stone 1 kg

Please transport these back.

For the reward please contact the client Dowan, though you should already know this.

Reward: 30,000 Gold

The reward is 30,000 Gold huh. But right now I have no right to be picky. That said, after we finish this request I should do a request that can earn more profit—— Well, in any case, let's focus on this request first.

「If you are able to complete the request safely, then please bring the written

request to the client himself and have him sign it before you bring it back -  
nyan」(Nyanko)

「Okay, understood. Well then, I'll be off to complete it」(Hitto)

「I will also do my best!」(Melissa)

Melissa is all fired up and ready to go, but we still have the magic bag after all. I think that fundamentally there's not much to do in the first place but..... That's fine I guess.

For the moment we exited the Guild, and while we were at it we might as well have a look at the bank.

The least we can do is get a ticket number which is necessary for later after all.

However, it was true when they said there would be an amazing amount of people. All the seats were filled so there were people standing as they waited. Are these all people who had to wait 10 days for their appointment? Nevertheless.....

「This document has a misspelled word at this one area. Because of this we cannot accept it. Please take another ticket number and visit us a second time after you have made amendments to it」

「P-Please hold on a second! It's only a single typo right? I'll fix it right now! It will be really quick!」

「We cannot accept a document that has errors in it. Please take another ticket and wait for your turn」

「S-Stop screwing with me! That means I'll have to wait another 10 days! Half of my funds have already been taken! At least let me withdraw some of it!」

「Those are the rules, please take another ticket and wait for your turn」

「I'm begging you! It's only a small mistake! Let me withdraw some of it! If I can't withdraw at least this much then I will-!」

「Those are the rules」

「Please, I'm begging you..... I'll lose my store. My daughter is still just a little kid, I don't want her having to end up as a slave.....」

「Those are the rules」

.....That's pretty incredible. He's begging while crying his eyes out and snot dripping from his nose after all. And he even started prostrate himself on the ground..... Yet the receptionist simply repeated those businesslike words. Ah, it looks like some muscular looking guys showed up and escorted him out by force.

..... Honestly it makes me feel sick inside. Taking a good look around, there isn't anyone here who has a happy look on their face. They all look like they are on the brink of life or death, and their expressions reflected that.

.....I was right to think that these bank people are only out to extort money. Even if they act like they are forced to do this because it is their job, I really can't accept that they are doing all this with such stone cold expressions..... But—

「Goshujin-sama.....」(Melissa)

「I know, Melissa. In any case let's get a ticket number and head out to do the request」(Hitto)

Using Cancel on the current situation will honestly be difficult. This is just reality.

This bank, they take the forms from customers into the back room and have it confirmed by higher authorities.

I'm trying to think of a way around this..... But first I have to deal with the ticket number.

In order to withdraw money, you have to wait in line for the number on your ticket to be called.

In addition this ticket number isn't your average ticket, it is shaped like a silver plate, and the number isn't written in pen or anything, instead it was chiseled into the ticket with the same neat typeface.

This way it will be difficult to make counterfeits.

And when the receptionist lady calls out your number, the person brings their ticket to the teller window.

At that time, you have to hand in a completed form declaring how much you

want to withdraw along with other details that needs to be filled out in advance.

Based on that exchange from earlier, if you have any discrepancies in the form then they will request that you rewrite it, and demand that you take another ticket on top of it all.

The most troublesome thing about this is, that you have to wait 10 days before your number is called.

Basically, although I won't be doing it in the first place, even if I forcefully cut ahead in line by using Cancel, the ticket number still wouldn't match correctly.

If I hand the receptionist my ticket, and then use Cancel on the process of handing it over, then it would only end up with them demanding that I take another ticket.

Because of that, it is impossible to circumvent the standard process.

But if that is true, then if I wait the 10 days and withdraw my money, if I used Cancel at that time will I be able to withdraw the original 1 million? I had that sort of idea, but— That also seems difficult.

There is the possibility that when the receptionist accepts my forms, and after she has given me the money I withdrew, I can use Cancel and convince her that I haven't received the money yet.

This would be an application of Conversation Cancel, but this would only be effective if the receptionist handled all the procedures by herself.

However, at this bank you interact with the woman at the teller window, but the forms are sent to a different person for confirmation.

And I can't be for sure that the forms aren't reviewed by several people when it goes into the back room.

If I were to use Cancel in that situation then it might be discovered by a different staff member.

And, once it gets discovered one time then it will cause a sense of distrust. If that were to happen, then I will no doubt be marked for suspicion by the bank.

Damn it! Either way it won't go in my favor!..... Well not matter how much I think about it, there's not much I can do at the moment. One way or the other I

still have to get past the line after all.

Guess there's no helping it..... For now I, together with Melissa, left the bank and headed for the Mt. Stone mines.

Once we left the city, I took out the magic map to confirm our location just in case. Based on the information from earlier, the mines are to the northeast of Central Arts, and like the name implies it resides with the mountainous region of Mt. Stone.

It really is a region with only mountains huh.

It is a bit farther from here than the forest was, but with Step Cancel we'll get there in no time.

「Now then, let's go shall we」(Hitto)

「Yes, Goshujin-sama」(Melissa)

It seems like Melissa already understood, she voluntarily held out her hand while wearing a happy smile.

Somehow this makes me a bit embarrassed instead, but I hold onto her hand in the meantime, and fixing my gaze on a destination I used Cancel a repeated number of times.

In response to the change in scenery,

「Goshujin-sama's magic is really quite amazing——」

Melissa let out some words of admiration.

Well, I also think it is quite a convenient ability.

With our current pace another 10 Cancels should get us to——

「Kyaaaa————！」

And, suddenly hearing the sound of a shrill cry, I stopped using Cancel halfway through the motion.

Melissa as well, she also looks startled by the scream.

Since I was traveling by the shortest route possible, I wasn't really paying attention to the highway. Our current location was atop a small hill surrounded by flowers.

And that scream came from somewhere below the slope of this hill, it came from a place somewhat separated from the highway.

Over there, equipped with chain mail, was a soldier-esque man wielded a bastard sword, and a women in a leaf-green robe with a wooden staff being surrounded by a pack of wolves.

The way things are I can't tell the conclusion, but I don't think those are ordinary wolves.

There is a high chance that they are monsters.

From the looks of it I could tell that the soldier man's arm had blood running from it.

The reason for the woman's shrill cry was probably because of that.

「Goshujin-sama——」(Melissa)

Melissa murmured softly as she lowered her brow in concern, but, of course I know. Seeing something like this, there's no way I can ignore it.

「We're going to help, Melissa!」(Hitto)

「Understood! Goshujin-sama!」(Melissa)

# Chapter 35 “State of Emergency”

Melissa and I moved down from the top of the hill using Step Cancel. The man and woman who are being attacked are most likely adventurers, but we should hurry up and reach the pair.

「Garururuu」

「Tch! Wavering Scarlet, Crimson in My Palm, Now is the Time to Awaken. Scarlet Become Flames, Become My Protector, Shatter Apart—— Fire Kya!」

「Eni! D-Damn it all! C'mon! Shit, Kuu!」

Fumu——she trying to cast the elementary fire magic “Flame Shot” huh. But she was attacked during the incantation so it got disrupted.

The other one of them, a man, was trying to kill all the ones charging the woman, but their numbers were too great.

Once there was an opening one of them would sneak up and attack from behind.

There is one thing I realized after getting closer though. The things attacking are Killer Wolves. A type of Monster.

Their characterized by having much longer claws and fangs than a normal wolf. They are a monster that primarily travels in packs.

Well, it was a good thing we were close by.

「Melissa, wait here. I'll go and finish things up quickly」(Hitto)

「No, I will fight as well! Please allow me to fight!」(Melissa)

I'm a bit stuck, I don't want her to fight, but I don't have time to argue about it.

「Fine. But please, don't do anything too dangerous」(Hitto)

「Understood! Goshujin-sama!」(Melissa)

Saying that, we settled the matter quickly.

In any case we have to move out——

「S-Shit! There're too many, at this rate-！」

「W-We have to inform the Guild. Even if we have to, we can't.....」

「It's no use! I'll lure them to me! Eni, you have to run away and tell the Guild!」

「B-But Dan! If I did that, then you will.....」

——Whamm!

Sorry for butting in while the two of you are getting emotional.  
For the time being I teleported near the pack, and Hurricane Slicer to clear a way through the wall of wolf flesh.

But, Hmm? The two of them are just staring at me with wide-open eyes.

「..... Eh? When did he-?」(Dan)

「W-Who are you?」(Eni)

「Cancel!」(Hitto)

“EEH!” The two raised their voices in surprise.

「Behind you! Don't let down your guard! I'll take care of the ones over here!」  
(Hitto)

After I said that, the two finally noticed the Killer Wolf that was approaching them from behind.

Since I Cancelled the wolf's attack, the soldier-like man vigorously roared as he took advantage of opportunity and sliced the wolf clean through with a horizontal cut.

I see now, so this man's Job is a Swordsman huh. Horizontal Cut was a Weapon Skill that Swordsmen could use.

A Weapon Skill is something than can be used when both the weapon and job match each other. In terms of power they are divided into expert techniques, master techniques, grand master techniques, venerate techniques.

Horizontal Cut was a expert level technique.

「Haaa!」

Whoa, looks like Melissa is pretty good at using the power of wind dwelling inside her Wind Estoc to take care of her enemies.

Alright! I should start getting to work too.

For now let's have the other two take care of our front-side and focus my

attention on the rear.

As the Killer Wolves swarmed us, I continuously used Attack Cancel to unleash a flurry of attacks that had no openings. While we're at it—

「Hey you! You can use magic right! Use it to defeat them!」(Hitto)

「B-But, the incantation will take too—」(Eni)

「It's fine! The magic will fire immediately! Just hurry up!」(Hitto)

When I said that, the woman magician called Eni started chanting the incantation with a look of doubt, but— That's when I activated Charge Cancel.

「Eh? This is—」(Eni)

「The incantation should be done! Hurry and shoot it!」(Hitto)

「O! Okay!」(Eni)

Eni shot a ball of fire towards one of the wolves. The fire ball flew straight forward and clashed against the Killer Wolf's body.

The impact didn't leave too much of a scar, but gradually the wolf's body was set ablaze from the burning heat.

Good, if this is the effect then it's plenty useful.

As I continued to cut down monsters I gave Eni the order to keep firing magic. Charge Cancel was, it was one of the few support Skills a Canceller could use.

Cancellers themselves cannot use magic, but if they have an ally who can use magic, then they could Cancel the incantation and cause the magic to be instantly ready to activate.

Likewise, it was also possible to use it on Skills and such that take time to activate.

It's just that I never really got the chance to use it.

In the meanwhile I was about to tell Melissa to keep being on her guard, but it seems like my fears were unwarranted. Melissa skillfully dispatched of the Killer Wolves around her.

As I kept cutting down Killer Wolves with my twin swords, Incantation 【Cancel】 Flame Shot → Incantation 【Cancel】 Flame Shot → Incantation 【Cancel】 Flame Shot.....

Getting a sense for the rhythm, I repeated the process again and again. I can't use Cancel on the same person multiple times in a row, but if it's a magic on the level of Flame Shot, then it was possible to use Cancel on Eni again after waiting to see if the shot hit her target.

At that time, the swordsman called Dan, although his face was warped from the pain of his wounds, he didn't give in to that pain, and repeatedly slayed his opponents. Not before long, the pack of Killer Wolves were splendidly annihilated—

「You really saved us, Thanks」(Dan)

Perhaps his fatigue caught up to him, the swordsman sat down where he was, and told me his thanks.

On his left arm were the leftover marks of a Killer Wolf's bite, you could tell that it was still bleeding.

The other person, the woman, pulled out what looked to be bandages and medicine from her pouch.

She probably plans to apply some first aid before wrapping up the wound.

「That said the two of ya are real strong. Let me guess, you're adventurers right?」(Dan)

「Well pretty much. From the looks of it you guys are too right?」(Hitto)

When I asked the swordsman he paused in thought for a bit, and then the both of them responded.

「Yea, that's right. The name's Dan, I have the Swordsman Job. And this is Eni[1], I'm sure you can tell from looking but she has the upper magic job of Magician」(Dan)

「I see. My name is Hitto, and this is... Huh?」(Hitto)

「Oh, that slave person, she went over in that direction to go pick up something—」(Eni)

Eni turned her head and pointed it over to where Melissa was. Fumu, it looks like she's leaning over and harvesting something from the bush over there. Ah, looks like she's coming back.

「Ano, if you smear this over the wound I am sure it will help. It is a Bond-All Flower」(Melissa)

Saying that, Melissa held out both hand and showed us the flower she picked. Right now the petals were closed up; a violet colored flower.

「Normally you would need to compound it to get the full effect, but if you squeeze out the nectar, and add it together with the medicine Eni-sama has with her, then it should enhance the medicine's effects. It should also be able to stop any puss from forming」(Melissa)

「T-Thank you so much!」(Eni)

Bowing her head many times, Eni expressed her thanks.  
Fumu, Even though Melissa is a slave, these two don't seem to be prejudice against her.

「By the way, Her name is Melissa. I'm the only one who's registered with the Guild though」(Hitto)

Dan nodded his head as he accepted my words. In the meantime Eni extracted the nectar from the flower and mixed it with the medicine before starting to give Dan treatment.

「Incidentally, earlier you said you have to hurry and inform the Guild but... did something happen?」(Hitto)

It felt like they were in a big rush after all, I'm a bit curious so it's best to ask them directly.

「That's right! Truth is that a massive amount of monsters have appeared at the Mt. Stone Mines up ahead. We were in a hurry to inform the Guild about it」(Dan)

「A massive amount? At Mt. Stone?」(Hitto)

「Yea, cuz we didn't want to get close to the monsters at the mine, we took a job where we were suppose to be guards. The number of orggs inside the mines had exploded, but not the ones outside. When we saw the miners outside in a panic we decided to go take a look to check if anything was strange, but..... There was just too many of them, our comrades lost their lives... Eni and I were

the only ones who could escape」(Dan)

Orggs huh..... An Orgg is a monster that is like a baby ogre.[2] Compared to humans their height is smaller, about 1 meter tall. In terms of dealing with them they are on the level of kobolds and goblins, but the strength of an orgg is tied to its color.

They range from Green, Pink, Yellow, Blue, and Red. The most troublesome to deal with were the Red ones; even while they are young they can breath fire from their mouths.

All the other orggs have one horn, but a Red Orgg has two horns.

Underneath that were the Blue Orggs, and ranked in the middle were Yellow Orggs. Pink and Green Orggs were about on the same level of strength. By the way, just because they are pink doesn't mean they are all female.

Anyways, it seems like a large number of orggs have appeared huh. They shouldn't be that strong individually though.

「I see, so you were going to the Guild huh. Are the miners and the rest of them safe?」(Hitto)

「I wouldn't exactly say "safe", but for the moment they've retreated to a cabin that's normally used as a resting spot. However, I'm sure the one's left behind are feeling hopeless about now..... We were assigned as guards but we were completely pathetic」(Dan)

Saying that, a grim look overcame Dan's face and he dropped his shoulders. Eni was worried and tried to comfort him.

Melissa as well, she wore a uneasy expression as she muttered, "Goshujin-sama....."

「I understand the situation. Will the two of you be able to make it back to the Guild?」(Hitto)

「Yea, I think we should be fine. I doubt we will run into any more Killer Wolves, and if we go on a bit further we should be able to reach the highway」(Dan)

「I see, okay. Well then, us two should hurry on ahead」(Hitto)

「.....? Hurry on ahead... The only thing past here is Mt. Stone you know?」  
(Dan)

「Yeah, to begin with we had some business to take care of at the mines. We have a request to gather iron ore and magic stones you see」(Hitto)

「Wha-!? Don't be stupid! Didn't you hear what I just said? The mines have been overtaken by a swarm of orggs! It's in no condition for you to be transporting stuff!」(Dan)

Dan's eyes widened as he let out a roar.

It's true, if this was in the game then this situation would come close to being an emergency subjugation quest.

The majority of people would want to Party up for it though.

「You don't have to worry about us. Well, we won't do anything too dangerous, but while we're there we'll cut down their numbers a bit. Leaving that aside, I'll count on you to inform the Guild. This will probably be treated as an emergency situation after all」(Hitto)

After I said that, Dan opened his mouth and said "Count on us" while still astonished.

「I'll give you a word of advice. If you die while saying someone then they will only have nightmares about it. I agree that you're strong and you seem pretty confident, but make sure to not do anything too rash」(Dan)

「Yeah, thanks for worrying about us」(Hitto)

Melissa and I said our piece to the two, and we lightly waved back to them as we departed.



「OH! Hey, are you perhaps an adventurer!?」

When Melissa and I arrived at the entrance of the Mt. Stone Mines, there were two men who looked to be miners who went out to survey the situation. They called out to get our attention.

「Yeah, that's right. On our way here we met up with the two who were assigned to guard you. It seems like you're in a bit of trouble right?」(Hitto)

「Like hell it's "a bit" of trouble! I have no idea what happened, but suddenly a bunch of orggs came up out of nowhere! A lot of my comrades were left behind, they, they probably won't live long!」

「You two were dispatched by the Guild right? Are more reinforcements coming later?」

The miner was, he placed his hand on his brow and looked off into the distance behind Melissa and I.

Apparently they are under the impression that I have other allies coming.

「I think more will come, but it will probably take some time. I originally came here to transport some iron ore and magic stones. On our way here we heard about the situation from those two who are heading to the Guild. We pretty much met at the halfway point, so I think it will take at least an hour before those two reach the Guild. From there I think it would take a couple more hours for the adventurers to gather up and rush over to this place」(Hitto)

「Stop screwing with us! It will be night by the time they come then!」

There's no point complain to me about it though. Well, but still.

「But I can't exactly go back now. Since we're here already, we'll go inside and defeat the ones that we can」(Hitto)

When I told the two, they raised their eyebrows and said, "Haaa?" while looking puzzled.

「You'll beat the orggs inside? It's not just one or two of them you know? At the least, there's about 100 or 200 of them」

「I see. As long as there's not 1,000 of them... Well, I'm sure it will work out」(Hitto)

Truthfully I think we could somehow handle 1,000 of them though.

「Are you serious. Just like that female knight from earlier, how come only the overconfident and cocky bunch are coming here.....」

One of their words caught my ear. A Female Knight? What's going on?

「Who is that female knight you're talking about? Is she an adventurer? And she went inside?」(Hitto)

Once I asked them my question, the two of them looked at each other for a second, and then finally looked back at me.

「No, apparently she wasn't an adventurer. She was a real beaut though, she suddenly showed up from nowhere and asked, "Has things been strange around here recently?" the whole thing seemed really unusual. "Something strange is happening RIGHT NOW!" is what we told her.]

「And then, even though we told her to not even try it, when she heard what happened she said somethin' like『I will go have a look!』and just dashed off like that.]

Fumu, from the looks of things no one knows who she is.  
A female knight showing up out of nowhere huh..... And she's also pretty brave at that.  
But I can't just ignore the lady after hearing about her. I hope she's still all right.....

「I got it. Then I'll look for that female knight while I'm at it. If aid comes then please tell them that as well」(Hitto)

Telling the two miners that, Melissa and I were about the enter the mines, but-

「Whoa, hold up, you can't be serious. Rather, if you have that much confidence, then you must have a pretty high rank right?」

「Yeah, despite how I look, I'm a Beginner rank adventurer」(Hitto)

「I see..... A Beginner, no wonder why——」

Saying that, the two miners cleared a path for us.  
I casually passed in between the miners, and proceeded to walk ahead.  
And, the moment our backs had past them.....

「「WHA-, A BEGINNER!?」」

The two of them retorted in unison.  
Yup, since I acted so bold I thought this would be their reaction, as expected——

# Chapter 36 “The Wandering Knight”

Melissa and I entered the mines and walked right down a tunnel  
With the Magic Map this will be a piece of cake—— is what I would like to say,  
but the Magic Map only works when we are in the Field.

With that said, well, we have no other choice but to walk on in and check things out for ourselves.

But considering that the tunnel and other passageways were lined with magic tools to ensure visibility, it wasn’t like we were fumbling around in the dark.

Well, if we’re talking about a mining area then of course there would be light. The roof of the tunnel was about 1 head higher than mine, and the width was barely wide enough to squeeze in 2 people. The walls were cold and rugged; if we stayed here for very long I think we might suffocate, figuratively speaking of course.

Nevertheless, a female knight huh..... Blindly throwing herself in here without a second thought either means she is quite confident in her skills, or that she is the type who’s body acts before their brain can catch up——I hope she is all right, but we should hurry up regardless.

「I’m going to take your hand, Melissa. We’re going to pick up the pace a bit」  
(Hitto)

「Okay, Goshujin-sama. But please do be careful!」(Melissa)

Melissa spoke back while sounding concerned, but of course I will be wary to a certain extent. Still, I don’t think orggs will pose too much of a problem. To be honest, I think that even Melissa won’t have a hard time dealing with them either——



「Sylphid Dance!」[1]

「GUGeEEee!」

「GYuillii!」

「ANGyOOoOOO!」

「.....」

Well, while making full use of Step Cancel, we exited the tunnel and reached and open area.

And at that moment, the scene before Melissa and I was a large amount of orggs—— of orgg corpses that is.

How many are there? I guess around 30 corpses? Although that's only the number of corpses at this moment, the count will likely be increasing from now on.

Yea, it seems like the female knight was part of the "confident in their skills" faction.

In this open area, she is without a doubt playing the leading role.

In this rink with such unsteady footing, she is magnificently gliding about as she dances with her blade.

The surrounding orggs didn't stand a chance.

There were about 20 more orggs, but the knight's attacks flew like the wind, and her swordsmanship turned their arms, legs, and torsos into small pieces. It didn't matter if they were blue orggs or red orggs.

Apparently there was absolutely nothing to worry about. I doubt I'll even be able to join in.

「Somehow... this is really amazing, Goshujin-sama——」(Melissa)

Yup. Melissa seems a bit too flabbergasted by it though.

It truly was amazing though. The knight took center stage as she carried out the battle, her height is quite tall for a female.

Her long blue hair reached down to her hips; it was tied into a single bundle and flowed down her back.

Her hair matched her movements as she fought, and it drew an intricate pattern in the air as if it were a paintbrush.

This might be a strange thing to say, but if I had to point out the most impressive thing about her, as expected it would be—— her outfit!

Honestly speaking her equipment was very befitting of a knight, most of her body was covered by thick plates of silver armor. But, even with that I could tell that she had a bust that wouldn't lose to Melissa, and it was properly showing

on the surface. Since she had on a silver-coated skirt, they would occasionally reveal the plump thighs beneath them. The designer that crafted this armor, you have truly done a Good Job! So much so that I want to offer them my praise.

You really really know your stuff.

「..... Goshujin-sama. Are you perhaps thinking of something perverted?」  
(Melissa)

「There's no way I would be, Melissa」(Hitto)

I'm only admiring it as a true work of art. I'm not lying or anything, definitely not.

Anyways, after watching for a while the performance finally came to a close, and in the end only the corpses of 5 different colors of orggs[2] remained, with a total of around 50 bodies.

I guess you could say that there were heaps of corpses lying just around everywhere.

This is just me saying it, but even if they were just mere orggs, for a woman to take down 50 of them by herself... Isn't that a really impressive feat?

「Hmm?」

“Phew~” Wiping off her sweat as she took a deep breath, it seems like the female knight finally noticed me and Melissa. She turned her head and our eyes met each other.

Fumu, her long green eyes were shaped in a slight upward fashion. Although her eyes are filled with strong resolve, her face was well-featured and she would definitely fall into the “bishoujo” category.

She looks like the type of woman who carries an air of being both cold and dignified

When you are too beautiful it sometimes gives the opposite affect of making you intimidating, huh.

Melissa is also quite beautiful, but she still has the impression of being youthful so she is a completely different type of bishoujo. The size of their breasts are the same type though.

Still, the female knight's legs are certainly much longer huh. Her posture is also

pretty so she looks like a model.

「Are you by chance adventurers who came here on a request?」

After glancing over us for a while, the knight returned her thin sword to its scabbard, and with her wind wolf companion riding on her shoulder she asked us that question.

Her pretty voice rang out so firmly that there was no way to play it off and say something like “Oh sorry, I couldn’t hear you”.

「It’s true that I’m an adventurer, but rather than coming by request, we came here after hearing about the situation. We originally came here for a request to transport iron ore and magic stones though」(Hitto)

As Melissa and I walked closer to the knight, I answered the question.

「Iron ore and magic stones? In that case it’s entirely impossible. At the moment I have finished taking care of the ones here, but there are still more monsters further within」

The female knight said that as she held out her right hand. It doesn’t seem like she is going to be boastful about defeating so many orggs, she stated it in a ‘matter-of-fact’ manner.

「Well, I thought that to be the case. That’s why I figured that I should come here and clean things up real quick」(Hitto)

“Fumu...” In response to my reply, the knight placed her hand on her slender chin and went into deep thought.

「Regardless, charging in with only one person is too reckless. Have you not heard what the miners had to say? There are still a very large number of orggs lurking around」

「I could say the same to you. You also entered these mines by yourself, right? Your words don’t hold any weight at all, you know?」(Hitto)

As I held out both my hands to the side when I said that, the knight’s eyebrow sharply shot up, and a slight sense of displeasure spread across her expression.

「My name is Angie[3]. I am not fond of being referred to as “You”」(Angie)

「Is that so? Then perhaps it would be appropriate for me to address you as

Angie-sama, would it not?」(Hitto)

I said it somewhat snark tone. But still, she's exactly the way she looks: strict and firm-hearted.

「Quite the sarcastic fellow aren't you. Just Angie is fine」(Angie)

「I see. My name is Hitto by the way, and this here is Melissa」(Hitto)

As I introduced myself I also put in a word for Melissa.

And thus, with another "Fumu", Angie again started to think.

「From the looks of things she seems to be a slave, but is she registered as an adventurer?」(Angie)

As expected, is she interested in the fact that Melissa is a slave? It doesn't seem like Angie is trying to ridicule her though.

「No, the only one who is registered as an adventurer is me」(Hitto)

「What did you say!? That would mean, you bastard! When the time comes are you planning on using your slave as a meat shield to cover your escape!?」(Angie)

W-What? Suddenly a razor-sharp gaze and a harsh voice came flying my way. For some reason the pressure she exerted made it seem like I might be cut down depending on my answer.

..... More importantly, Do I really give that kind of impression to people I meet for the first time?

「You are mistaken! Goshujin-sama would never do something so heartless like that! Without regard to my social status, he has always been concerned with my well-being despite me being a slave! The reason why I have come along, is because I truly want to be useful to Goshujin-sama!」(Melissa)

And, Melissa stepped forward and hardly retorted.

Making sure not to lose out, she sent out a death stare while going "Mu mu muu!"

However, Melissa's scowling doesn't have much impact no matter how hard she tries, so even though she was mad it only came off as somewhat cute.

「.....I-Is that so, I was wrong, sorry. I have heard stories that among

adventurers there are a few impudent ones who do such things. Forgive me for being doubtful of your master who you care so deeply about」(Angie)

..... This knight easily apologized, and she silently bowed her head while looking ashamed of herself.

No, well, I also said some pretty mean-spirited things, so I should be apologizing instead.

「P-Please, there is no need to lower your head!」(Melissa)

Melissa waved both her hands in a panic.

「Well, I also said some unkind words. Let's just call it even for the both of us」(Hitto)

「I-Is that so, I would appreciate if you took it that way」(Angie)

Angie raised her head, and she wore a beautiful smile. Yeaah~, it was breathtakingly elegant smile.

「And so Angie, what do you plan on doing now?」(Hitto)

「Hm. For now I will set up base here. I plan on defeating all the orggs who come this way. Until the adventurers come with reinforcements that is」(Angie)

“Here” huh..... I took another look at the surroundings. This space was a relatively large area, and when I looked at the walls I saw 4 different tunnels.

「I can't agree with simply waiting here. How about venturing in further?」(Hitto)

「I don't believe that is a good plan. Past this area, there are 4 entrances to separate tunnels. Because of that, if you chose to venture down one of them, then orggs might come out of a different tunnel and head for the outside. There's no point of that happens」(Angie)

I see, it seems like she put some thought into this. I haven't heard the specifics, but from her appearance and tone of voice she seems to be a genuine knight.

「In that case, is it all right if Melissa stands guard here with you Angie? In the meantime I'll go and investigate one of the tunnels」(Hitto)

When I gave that proposal, both Angie and Melissa opened their mouths in astonishment.

「How foolish, are thou saying that thou plan to enter by on thy own? No matter what the circumstances it is just too rash. Besides, these tunnels seem travel for quite the distance. A round trip would take a rather long time, would it not?」(Angie)

「That's right, Goshujin-sama! It is dangerous! If you plan to go then at least allow me to come with you!」(Melissa)

Yeaah, so the “Thou[4]” came huh..... What a strangely formal way of speaking.

Still, it's not a bad feeling to have a situation where two pretty ladies are trying to get me to stay.

「Thanks for the sentiment but I'll be fine. If it becomes truly dangerous then I can return in a second. Despite how I look, I have a skill that increases my movement. So it won't take much time for me to investigate」(Hitto)

「What? You have a skill like that? That's rather unexpected. I thought for sure you were a type of fighter」(Angie)

Well, in terms of characteristics that assessment isn't too far off.

「Goshujin-sama can use teleportation magic after all. Despite that, his sword technique is also magnificent」(Melissa)

Melissa proudly boasted about me to raise my image, but I didn't think she would easily disclose my abilities like that.

Well, being found out doesn't have that much of a downside.

「Teleportation!? Is that true!? Even in all of the kingdom, there are only a few people who can successfully use that magic!」(Angie)

..... I-Is that so. She seems to have really latched onto the idea after hearing that.

I don't think I'll be able to trick her into thinking otherwise at this point.....

Well, for the time being I used that teleportation skill, otherwise known as Step Cancel, to move around the area several times.

「T-To think that thou could actually use teleportation..... Honestly this is the first time I have seen it. Are thou perhaps a considerably high rank adventurer?」(Angie)

Nope, I'm just a Beginner. Regardless, she seems seriously impressed huh. Technically speaking it isn't a teleportation skill though. Well, the appearance does look similar.

「In any case please stop with the "Thou". Just Hitto is fine」(Hitto)

「Is that so. Okay then, Hitto. Is it alright for me to refer to the girl as Melissa?」(Angie)

When Angie turned to me I nodded in return, and her gaze then fell upon Melissa as she asked that question. Afterwards Melissa's cheeks turned somewhat red.

「T-To be called by name by a knight-sama such as yourself, I am truly honored!」(Melissa)

Just awhile ago she was denouncing her, but I guess Melissa was affected by Angie's aura huh.

Well, I suppose the stunningly gorgeous Angie would be every girl's role-model, all things considered.

「Even if you call me a knight it isn't much of a big deal. At the moment I am only a knight going where the wind takes me」(Angie)

She said that while wearing a weak smile. A wandering knight, huh... Well, that's fine either way.

「Regardless your skills are quite formidable, isn't that right? I guess that's to be expected for someone with an Elemental Guardian」(Hitto)

「What, so you could tell」(Angie)

「Pretty much. That wolf on your shoulder is a wind animal spirit right? They are spirit beasts that can only be tamed by Elemental Knights after all」(Hitto)

If I look at her appearance from the game's point of view then it was really easy to figure out. "Elemental Knight" was a high ranking job for knights that could tame spirits.

An Elemental Guardian was a Protective Spirit, and it was possible to form a contract with any spirit with the only limitation being that you could only have 1 of them. You would lose the ability to utilize spirits of different attributes, but in exchange you would have a powerful spirit beast as a follower.

「This is the first time I have seen one. It is very cute」(Melissa)

「Thank you, its called Wingulg」(Angie)

「Woow~, so your name is Gul-chan huh」(Melissa)

「G, Gul-chan.....」(Angie)

She seems to be at a loss. Well, I suppose a normal person wouldn't arbitrarily give a nickname to a spirit right in front of its knight like that.

Wait, Melissa is petting the aforementioned Gul-chan on the head and it seems to be really enjoying it.

「So you can touch it huh」(Hitto)

「Yes, as long as you have permission it should be all right. Although, during battle it becomes no different from the surrounding air」(Angie)

Well, I suppose that would be the case.

Anyways, we got to know a little bit about Angie so it's about time now.

「Okay then, I'm going to have a quick look around. As a scout that is」(Hitto)

「Then Goshujin-sama, take me as well!」(Melissa)

「No, in situations like this it's much easier to get around if I'm by myself. I'm sorry Melissa but please stay here with Angie. If you are with her then I'll have some peace of mind」(Hitto)

「Understood. Then, as a knight, I shall protect your beloved Melissa as if my life depended on it」(Angie)

Yea, she said that with such stern resolve. She really is virtuous.

Well, because of that I can rest at ease.

Well then, let's go have a look already, shall we—

# Chapter 37 “Hitto Searches for the First Time”

Telling Melissa and Angie to leave everything to me, I figured it was about time to head towards a tunnel to investigate, but—

After searching the three holes on the right side my conclusion was that there were no orggs to be seen.

Well, that only mean one thing. If there are still some orggs left then they will be in the last tunnel on the left hand side.

「How exceptional. I never would have thought you could search 3 passages in such a short amount of time」(Angie)

「Of course! Everything about Goshujin-sama is flawless after all」(Melissa)

「Umu. I thought Melissa was exaggerating when she said you annihilated a band of thieves in the blink of an eye, and that you were swarmed by 10,000 crooks and ruffians but you easily beat them to a pulp, but I see it might all be true」(Angie)

I'm sorry. That is a flat-out exaggeration. There was only 3 thieves, not a whole "band". And for the "ruffians" they mostly came in threes, at most it was only 30 people.

Wait, Melissa, what have you been saying about me while I was busy investigating!

「Well, be that the case. If there is only one place left to search, then there is no need for me to be here」(Angie)

Hmm? For some reason she folded her arms and nodded, as if coming to some sort of conclusion.

「Obviously since that is the case, this time I shall come along with you!」(Angie)

「Eh? Uh, but just to be sure, won't it be better for you to stand guard here~ or something」(Hitto)

「Don't be absurd! The last tunnel is the one on the left, is it not? In that case there should be no need to worry about the other tunnels as we investigate. Rather, it is quite obvious that there will be a large amount of orggs lurking in that tunnel! On such an occasion a Knight such as myself shall accompany you!」(Angie)

「Of course, as a slave, I will be sure to follow Goshujin-sama as well!」(Melissa)

The two of them sent an abnormally feverish gaze towards me.  
*Sigh*, I know that Melissa can be a bit pushy, but it seems this female knight is equally as forceful.  
Or rather, in Angie's case there is a really strong "I shall not concede!" aura coming from her.

.....Well, I guess there's no helping it. Also, if Angie says that she will come along, then I can't exactly leave Melissa here alone.

「Fine then. In that case let's all go together. However, all of these tunnels are quite long. So I will speed up the process with teleportation」(Hitto)

「Umu, you are certainly right. Still, your magic is quite convenient, Hitto」(Angie)

It's not actually magic though.

「Well then, Goshujin-sama——」(Melissa)

Melissa reached out and grabbed my right hand. Afterwards I held out my left hand to Angie.

「..... What is the meaning of this?」(Angie)

Angie tilted her head like she was confused. Oh yea, guess I need to explain.

「The way my teleportation works, if you aren't holding hands with me then I can't teleport you at the same time. Therefore, will you please hold my left hand?」(Hitto)

「——？！ H-Holding hands!?」(Angie)

..... Hmm? Why are you suddenly throwing your head back in surprise?

「Well, if you don't take my hand then we won't be able to teleport」(Hitto)

「B-B-b,B-But! F-For me to h-, hold hands with another gentleman is! I-It's not like we are dating or anything! T-Thash so! I-Indecent!」(Angie)

..... Huh? What, you fumbled over your words in strange places, and your face is bright red too. What's this, how cute.

「I-In any case! Is there not some other way!」(Angie)

「Nope, there isn't」(Hitto)

「Wha!? B-But, even so.....」(Angie)

「It's only holding hands, right? Do you really have to hesitate so much?」(Hitto)

「D-Don't be absurd! This is my first time, so as if I can simply do just it!」(Angie)

「..... F-First time——」(Melissa)

Melissa gave a light retort. Well of course she would. Although saying this might cause some misunderstandings, in the world that I came from such a virgin-like action like holding hands, even kindergartens will quickly get over it.

「Is it perhaps, Angie, have you never gone out with a man before?」(Melissa)

Melissa... That's not something you should be asking so casually.  
Because of that Angie is wearing a look of complete *Shock*.

「My parents were rather strict in that regard..... And, since I was determined to become a knight I did not have the free time to deal with things such as men and flirtation——」

As she bashfully pressed her left and right index fingers together in front of her face, the female knight grumbled in rebuttal.

..... This “gap” is really strong huh.

「But you know Angie. Holding hands isn't that much of a big deal. It's better if you discard that way of thinking beforehand, because if you don't then it might cause you to falter when you truly do fall in love」(Hitto)

「I-Is that how it is?」(Angie)

「I also agree with Goshujin-sama's opinion. If you are not able to do it now, then when the time comes you might hesitate and lose your chance」(Melissa)

Hearing out the both of us, Angie nodded with an "Umu". She still looks a bit hesitant, so I guess I should give her one more push.

「Angie. To begin with, it's not a good thing to be hung up on 'first times' you know? There are some guys out there who like that sort of thing, but there are plenty who say that way of thinking is too cumbersome」(Hitto)

「M,Muu, if you put it that way..... T-Then I guess trying to protect my firsts is just me being too old-fashioned..... But Melissa, are you fine with that? For me to give my first to Hitto?」(Angie)

「I see..... I put my faith in Goshujin-sama, that taking someone's first won't change who he really is」(Melissa)

「Of course it won't, Melissa. Even if I take Angie's first, the feelings between you and me won't change」(Hitto)

"Goshujin-sama..." Melissa looked at me with watery eyes. And Angie watched us with a kind smile.

「I see..... Melissa, it seems like you've found yourself a nice master. As for me, I also think that giving my first to Hitto will be all right」(Angie)

「That's the spirit, Angie!」(Melissa)

「Yeah! I have decided! Now Hitto, come and take it! M-My first time——」(Angie)

Angie blushed, and she turned her face downward. While being embarrassed and shy, Angie said that she wanted me to have her first time. Of course I didn't dwell on it much. I slowly took her hand.

「S-So this is a man's... It's surprisingly big, but it's firm—— So very warm.....」(Angie)

And like this, I safely connected with Angie.

..... Yup, it's just our hands though. Well, this may be a little late, but what the hell was that conversation just now! Rather, we were only talking about holding hands, why did we need to be so serious!

Anyways, I was able to successfully hold hands with Angie. With a flower in each hand I proceeded down the remaining tunnel using Cancel movement.

Two, and then three Cancels later, we didn't notice anything strange, and there wasn't any orggs around either. Did Angie defeat them all in her fight earlier? I suppose that's a possibility.

We continuing in farther with Cancel movement, when suddenly I caught sight of the corpses of some miners.

It looks like this route was where the miners were slaughtered by orggs. And even further down we discovered the corpses of adventurers.

Among them, there was even the corpse of a female adventurer..... This is my first time since coming to this world that I've seen the remains of a woman, it felt like my heart just crushed.

The cause of death was being pierced through the chest. Her lightweight equipment might have caused this tragedy.

Orggs used weapons similar to humans. Three adventurer remains in total. One of them had their face burn as well. It was probably because of a Red Orggs flames.

「How horrible——」(Melissa)

With sadness in her eyes, Melissa spoke quietly.  
Angie also clenched her fist in anger.

And then, from a side passage came an inhuman groan.  
In a slightly curved passageway stood 5 orggs.  
Green, Pink, Yellow, Blue, and Red; there was one of each color.  
If this was a normal situation, I would've retorted about their combination, but I wasn't in the mood for it after seeing what they've done

「YOU BAASTAARRDDS!」(Angie)

Fueled by rage, Angie shouted as she flung herself at them.  
I also used Step Cancel to move directly behind the Red Orgg, and slicing through its neck, my blade crashed into the Blue Orggs skull as it stood there dumbfounded.

When I turned to check on Angie, her thin blade was endowed with the wind

spirit's power, and she tore apart the Yellow and Pink orgg.

It seems like anger still lingered in her blade.

「Giiii!」

The remaining Green Orgg turned and tried to make a break for it. Not letting it escape, I was about to use Step Cancel, but faster than I could act, somehow Melissa managed to come up behind it and finished it with a thrust of her Wind Estoc.

After she was sure that the orgg had lost its life, Melissa hips helplessly gave out and she fell, her shoulders continuing to tremble.

「Melissa! Are you alright!」(Hitto)

I quickly rushed over to her.

She slowly turned her head—— and in a shrill voice she answered 'Yesh'.

As I thought, compared to animal shaped monsters, dealing with human shaped ones is entirely different..... This is probably her first time killing a human one, she's probably being consumed by that emotion.

「I, I am sorry Goshujin-sama. B-But, for some reason I am shaking—— The way I am now, I am a failure as Goshujin-sama's slave..... eh?」(Melissa)

I fell to my knees, and tightly embraced Melissa, all the while caressing her head.

Very close to her ear, I gently whispered "You did a good job Melissa."

She raised her arms and returned my embrace. In a voice filled with tears, she mumbled "Thank you so much Goshujin-sama".

「Melissa, I'm sure your feelings made it through to the ones who lost their lives」(Angie)

Melissa regained some of her composure and managed to stand up, Angie offered her some encouraging words.

Angie's expression was filled with compassion.

"I was also trembling the first time I took someone else's life," a lonely smile crept on Angie's face.

Was she being considerate towards Melissa, or was she remembering what

happened in her past.

..... Honestly speaking I didn't feel any emotion when I first fought in this world—— But I suppose that's fine.

Angie has really helped out both me and Melissa, I have to properly thank her.

But still..... I want to at least dig some graves and give these corpses a proper burial.

But there's no time for that right now. At the very least we were able to confirm that there are still orggs remaining.

Further within, it's possible that there are a large amount of them.

In order to dispel their unease, I informed Angie and Melissa that we will be exterminating the remaining orggs. Taking both their hands we continued teleporting deeper inside.

After a while we reached the end of the tunnel.

However, that was only where the tunnel was supposed to end originally. To the side we discovered an artificially made passageway.

The passage didn't seem like it was properly excavated, and we could clearly see that it was unstable and might even collapse.

The large amount of orggs probably came from this hole.

I took the other two's hands once again and we teleported further in.

And—— When we exited that passage, we found ourselves in an open space much larger than the one Angie fought in. And there we saw a vast number of orggs.——

# Chapter 38 “The Culprit is...”

「So that is a King Orgg huh——」

We each pressed our back against the dirt wall, and trying to erase our presence so we wouldn't be noticed, we peeked out into the open area.

Red, yellow, and other colors of orggs, the number of small fries easily exceeded 200 or even 300.

I don't think there are 1,000 of them, but..... Is it around 500? Either way there are a few of them.

A number of orggs were carrying stone clubs, but there were some that used knives, swords, and axes.

However, the one who stood out the most was the giant orgg that was being worshiped

Is it around 3 meters tall? It had a humongous girth and its flesh was a similar color to mud, in a way it seemed like a big rocky mountain.

There was a higher class version of an orgg known as an ogre, but the King Orgg is even larger than an ogre.

Incidentally the similarly named orcs also exist.

In a normal fantasy they are monsters with the head of a pig.

And the reason for the mass appearance of orggs is probably because of him, the King Orgg is likely the culprit.

In the game it was a Unique class monster, whenever a King Orgg appeared there would always be a ton of small fry swarming around it.

「A Unique Species huh..... This is bad. It's on a different level than the other orggs」(Angie)

Angie wore a warped expression as she spoke.

It seems like the concept of Unique species also carried over to this world.

「You can't defeat it?」(Hitto)

「Don't be stupid. It certainly is far stronger than your average orgg, but I can even handle an Ogre Boss. I will have no trouble. But for the two of you... I

think it is best if you withdraw for now」(Angie)

So that's how it is. This Knight-sama is worried about us.

It's not like she was making light of us, she only spoke the words in her heart.

That's why she said she will handle it alone. If I remember correctly an Ogre Bross is a Unique species of Ogre, a level above the orgg class. Obviously it is much harder to deal with than a King Orgg.

But there is one thing. When dealing with Unique species there was always a simple pattern; basically they are the leader types for other monsters of the same species.

As a general principle even a large number of followers can't compare to the King Orgg though.

Well, she was able to easily turn 50 orggs into mince meat, so I don't think these numbers will be a problem..... But still.

「Sorry but we can't just back off after coming so far. Also, I'm just putting this out there, but in the current situation I will have an easier time defeating them」(Hitto)

When I said that, Angie's eyebrow twitched.

「Quite confident in yourself, aren't you?」(Angie)

Whoops, did I hurt her pride as a knight? Her tone seemed a bit thorny.

Even so—

「It's not like I don't believe in your strength, Angie. I witnessed it firsthand in your fight earlier. Angie, you are undoubtedly strong. But, that's only if you are able to get in relatively close range. As things are now you won't be able to bring out your full strength」

Angie looked perplexed for a while, but she eventually nodded with an "Umu", showing that my words were right on the mark.

Well this is just knowledge from the game, but her attack that uses her wind spirit, it used to be a skill called "Aero Cut" that fired a blade of wind from your sword's attack.

However, one of the properties of Aero Cut is that the power falls off the farther it travels.

With our current situation, even the closest enemy is more than 50 meters away.

Because of this we can't rely on Angie's skill as firepower.

However, if that's the case—

「I still have this」(Hitto)

Saying that, I took out the Spiral Heavy Crossbow from my magic bag and braced it against my shoulder.

Upon seeing that, Angie's eyes opened wide.

「H-Hey, Wait a minute! Certainly that weapon looks powerful and it surprised me for a second, but it's still just a crossbow, right? After you shoot one arrow it will take some time to prepare the next one. Surely they will notice in the meantime and come attack us you know!?」(Angie)

「It's fine. Just trust me, Angie」(Hitto)

Saying that, I lightly glanced over my shoulder to the panicking Angie. Propping myself on one knee, I set my sights, and—

Shoot!【Cancel】Shoot!【Cancel】Shoot!【Cancel】Shoot!【Cancel】Shoot!  
【Cancel】Shoot!【Cancel】Shoot!【Cancel】Shoot!【Cancel】Shoot!【Cancel】Shoot!  
【Cancel】Shoot!【Cancel】Shoot!【Cancel】Shoot!【Cancel】Shoot!【Cancel】Shoot!  
【Cancel】Shoot!

And using Cancel I fired at the last targets—

「Shoot!」(Hitto)

The moment I pulled the trigger, the bolt drew a spiral in the air and pierced through the chests of 5 orggs.

And after confirming that it hit the target, I used Cancel to return the bolt to the crossbow.

The Result—— In a span of 10 minutes, the mob of around 500 orggs were all pierced through, and their small corpses fell to the floor.

「——W,Wa-Wha! Wa-wa-wa-wa! What in the woorld waas thaaaaaaaaat～～～～！」

Angie's cry echoed throughout the cave's interior. It appears she is

considerably surprised. I guess it's only natural.

「T-The heck! What did you do!? To begin with you never even replaced the arrow in the crossbow! Why can you go all pew pew and shoot it off like crazy!」(Angie)

Yea. What an impressive barrage of questions. Now, what shall I do? Thinking about it, I don't really have a good method of concealing it.

「Let's leave out the troublesome details for now, to put it simply—It was 'fighting spirit'」(Hitto)

I tried to sum it up into one phrase.

「F-Fighting spirit, I see..... You used fighting spirit huh, no wonder why——」(Angie)

She looked a bit apprehensive, but it seems like she accepted it. What's this? Is she unexpectedly simple-minded?

「Hey! Like hell 'fighting spirit' can do that———!」(Angie)

She didn't accept it! Although I thought the same!

「GUuuuoOOOOOoO!」

Whoopsie.

「G, Goshujin-sama! That King Orgg monster is-!」(Melissa)

「Yeah, I know. Let's leave that talk for later, Angie. There's still an enemy left」(Hitto)

「Muu, F-Fine then. We need to defeat that Unique——」(Angie)

「GUUoO,o,Vo?」

——BAM!

「GUoBUoOOoO!」

「——ツ！」

「W-Whaat!?」(Angie)

Oi oi, what the hell just happened. All of a sudden the King Orgg was sent into the air, then it got buried into the ceiling! This place, the ceiling is exactly as tall

as the roof of the inn we're staying at—

Rather, with this the King Orgg is completely out of commission. And taking the King's place was..... a monster? It's height is shorter than the King Orgg. Even saying that, is it around 2 meters?

It's appearance was close to a human's. Although its muscles weren't that massive, I could tell that its body was tense and well-toned. Its skin was the same color as a red orgg. The face above the nose was hideous, it was like a painting of a demon. It had red hair down to the shoulders and a single long horn protruding from it.

That monster, in the wall behind it was a large hole bigger than its body. It most likely came out from there.

And I don't know the reason, but it sent the King Orgg flying with the giant hammer that was in its sturdy arms.

Whatever the case may be— What exactly was it? No, it is growing a horn so it's without a doubt a monster, the possibility of it being a Unique one is also high. At the least it's a monster that I have no recollection of. Because of that, I have no idea how it will act.

「I-Is that perhaps a Unique Species of monster?」(Melissa)

With a slight tremble in her voice, Melissa spoke up.  
However, I have any idea how to respond to that question.

「I, I do not know of it. To be honest I am perplexed as well. To kill the King Orgg in one attack..... It is a type that I have never seen before—」(Angie)

So it's the same for Angie huh..... I think she is quite experienced as well, but for her to not know what it is—

「G, Goshujin-sama. Is that monster looking at us?」(Melissa)

As Melissa pointed her finger to the monster, she spoke in a panicked voice. I also turned to face it, but because it had a face like a mask, I could not tell what it was thinking. But one thing is certain, its body was turned in our direction.

Then, it slowly began to move, and it crossed both arms in front of its

mouth—

「——! Something is coming!」(Angie)

Angie shouted! A bad feeling ran up my spine!

This is dangerous!

The next thing I knew, the monster shot flames from its mouth. It was not the same as a red orgg, this scale is on a whole different level! In the first place a red orgg's flame shouldn't be able to reach us—— However, the monster constantly spewed forth flames, and the strength of the fire did not die down. With a thunderous noise it's flying right towards us!

「This is bad! Wingulg! Create a wall to protect——」(Angie)

Angie immediately instructed her spirit animal to turn into a wind wall, but before it could complete it, Cancel!

「Whaa! The flames disappeared!」(Angie)

Angie is also surprised by that, but erasing an opponent's techniques is Cancel's specialty—— However, it seems that flame had a considerable amount of firepower behind it.

I want to think it was a good idea to erase it. If we took that attack head-on then we would surely be helpless to defend against it.

But I know one thing. Because I erased that flame, for the next 8 seconds, I can't use Cancel on that monster.

Unlike when you used Cancel on yourself, when you Cancelled your opponent's moves, you won't be able to use Cancel on them in rapid succession.

That was the rule of Cancel. And what determines the length of that time-frame, was the difference in strength between you and the opponent you used Cancel on.

In other words, the more an opponent's actions pose a threat to me, the longer the No-Cancel Interval was.

In the case of that attack it was 8 seconds. Out of all the opponents I've faced, this is the longest interval. Just that fact shows how powerful that blaze was. And, even if 8 seconds seems short, during a battle it is excruciatingly long.

「It's no use! If we stay here the next flame will roast us! I'll hold him off!」  
(Hitto)

「Then allow me to assist! I'm interesting in what you did, Hitto, and I'm sure it was an astounding feat—— But for now we should prioritize taking him down!」  
(Angie)

“Yeah,” I answered back. Melissa seems like she's about to make a move and say, “I as well!” but——

「You can't Melissa! You have to escape! There aren't any other monsters! Head back to that place from earlier!」(Hitto)

The place I was referring to is the open space where the tunnels connected. If she is there then she might run into some adventurers.

「B-But!」(Melissa)

「You'll only get in the way! This is an order! Leave!」(Hitto)

「——ツ!」(Melissa)

I couldn't hear what Melissa said. But having her hate me is better than losing her! Against this monster, I don't have the leeway to be protecting Melissa at the same time!

I looked back and confirmed Melissa had left. Good girl, you did well. Angie rushed out of the passage we were in and dashed left and right. Luckily the monster just stood there stiff.

At the moment the 8 seconds are up, but in this situation I can't use Cancel carelessly.

「GUUUUUUoOOOOOOOoOO!」

This is, a roar!? Is he trying to intimidate us? No. It's different! The monster's muscles swelled and became huge.

That was, Power Howling! It was a skill that pumps you up and increases your offensive power!

Then—— I ended up staring dumbfounded.

The Monster..... leapt into the air. Bending its waist to the ground, it sprung up so fast that it might crash into the ceiling—— And its speed was fast! Its target was-

「Angie!!」

I ended up crying out. But in that instant Wingulg wrapped around Angie's legs, and with enhanced leg power she dashed to my side.

In that instant—— A giant hammer came crashing down, the shockwave echoed throughout the room.

A mound of earth was sent flying, a cloud of dust rose into the air, our vision was greatly obscured.

Then, Kyaaa!, A short scream.

Losing her balance from the shockwave, she grabbed onto my armor as I caught.

「T-Thanks ..... Sorry about that——」(Angie)

Her face pressed against my chest momentarily, and from there she lifted her chin and said her thanks with slightly red cheeks.

Because of that, I think I felt my heart skip a beat—— But immediately afterwards my heart stopped for a different reason.

There was a large shadow floating overhead. That Monster came at us with the same move as before.

Shit! I'll use Step Cancel to—— No, the visibility is bad! In that case, Cancel!

The Monster was almost directly on top of us, I made him vanish with Cancel..。

Cancel sends you back to right before you acted. Because of that the Monster should've returned to the spot right before he jumped.

「Y-You use really strange techniques huh. No, is it magic? Either way I've never seen anything like it」(Angie)

Angie said some praise after seeing my skill.

But—— 30 seconds. That was the risk I received from Cancelling that attack.

In other words, the strength of that attack alone was considerably strong—— When the dust cleared, the spectacle before my eyes only reinforced that fact.

A massive crater. The Monster was standing in the center of it. Seriously, with that much force I see why it took away 30 seconds .

..... However, this Monster's attack pattern is almost like--

# Chapter 39 “Job Holder”

The Monster followed a particular fighting style. But I can't be for sure if I'm correct or not.

Also, I don't have much leeway to be thinking of such things.

The Monster once again crossed its arms. The flame is likely coming. But there's still another 25 seconds left——I can't use Cancel on him yet. However, we were saved by the fact that it makes large motions. Both Angie and I noticed the Monster's movements, and jump to the left and right. The next instant, a wall of fire filled up the space where Angie and I had just separated from each other.

We managed to dodge it but the heat was intense. The temperature rose up greatly, and sweat formed on my forehead.

But we can't keep only evading. I used Step Cancel to suddenly teleport by the Monster's side.

Only 20 seconds left——

On the other side of the monster I could see Angie. She accelerated herself with her spirit animal's wind.

Using both swords I diagonally slashed into the Monster's side, and using Cancel I following up Double Slicer with an X-Slicer.

Angie coated her sword with Sylphid Dance and pelted the other side with the power of wind.

But—— The thing didn't even flinch. The Monster then stopped its fire breath, and it unexpectedly took a step back.

「It worked!」(Angie)

A look of hope spread across Angie's face. But——This is.

10 seconds left—— It's no use, I won't make it!

「ANGIE! DODGE IT!」(Hitto)

Perhaps she heard me, Angie leapt far to the rear, and I also jumped back. At almost the same time the Monster began swinging its giant hammer wildly.

It wasn't an attack aimed at a target. It randomly swung the hammer in front of it. Although it recklessly swung around, the attacks pretty much covered the entire area in front of it.

The sound of the hammer smacking the round echoed in our ears several times. As if he was playing whack-a-mole, the force created countless dents in the floor.

「Damnit! What's with this guy? This is crazy!」(Angie)

Angie bit her lips as she grew annoyed. That said, while the monster continued to flail about, 10 seconds have passed—— We managed to recover for now.

「Mad Rush——」(Hitto)

I whispered the skill name that the monster was using.  
“What?” Angie said in reply.

「Power Howling into Dunk Attack, and also Mad Rush—— The flames are a different matter, but do these skills ring any bells? Angie?」(Hitto)

Hearing my words Angie looked shocked.

「No way..... It can't be——」(Angie)

「It seems you have noticed. Yes, everything this monster has done are Warrior Skills——」(Hitto)

Warrior: in the game it was a Upper-Class Job from the Fighter class. They had extreme arm strength and sort of looked like stupid muscle-heads. Well, that's pretty much the image they gave.

「Hitto, are you trying to say that this monster has the Warrior Job?」(Angie)

「Yea, that's exactly it. There's pretty much no mistaking it」(Hitto)

「That's absurd! Impossible! Even if it's a Unique Species, I've never heard of a monster holding job titles before!」(Angie)

That's right, even in the game there were no monsters that had job titles. However, if it used each skill individually then it would be a different matter, but to use 3 different skills at once, there's no other way of thinking about it.

「GUUUoOOOO!」

Kuu! Angie's expression warped. And the Monster used a second Power Howling to raise its strength further.

「Angie! Let's focus on defeating him first! Do you have some sort of finishing blow?」(Hitto)

Haa? Angie's eyes opened wide. But now's not the time to be speechless.

「Do you have one? I'm sure you do! Something that can defeat him in one move!」(Hitto)

「Ah Y-Yeah, I have just one. But it's impossible, in order to use it I need to spend time concentrating. Against this thing I won't have the time to—」(Angie)

「It's fine! Listen Angie, just do what I say!」(Hitto)

I told Angie my battle plan.

「Will that work? But—」(Angie)

「Believe in me, Angie! Here it comes!」(Hitto)

The Monster once again crossed its arms. As such Angie and I separated and dodged the flames. And then I ran up to the Monster and stood about 10 steps away from it. From the magic bag I pulled out the Spiral Heavy Crossbow.

Bracing it against my shoulder, I shot off rapid-fire Cancels. The bolts flew into the Monster's side one after another, but they only stuck halfway in before stopping.

That goes to show how solid this Monster's body is. And as expected, even with this attack the Monster shows no signs of faltering.

If this were a game the Monster would be like a Tank that doesn't even feel knock-back.

But, there's no problem. My aim isn't to deal damage.

Instead of that— Yes! I turned my way! It then lowered its waist, and leapt into the air! It flew at me with the giant hammer raised overhead. The Warrior skill Dunk Attack, it was an attack that utilized the force of a jump. But that force is incredibly powerful. In terms of pure strength it is the most

powerful Warrior skill.

I know from witnessing it earlier. If I get it by it straight on then I will certainly be killed.

But, I have to keep pulling it along. Until Angie finishes her preparations—— A large shadow was cast on me. It felt as if a boulder was falling down on me.

But, I confirmed it! Angie is in position. While she was concentrating—— I faced the Monster and once again activated Cancel.

In that instant—— The Monster that should have been in the air disappeared, and he stood where he was before he jumped.

And although I couldn't see his face, he must be flustered. The bigger and larger the opponent moves before being hit by Cancel, the longer they show an "opening".

I can't use Cancel on the Monster for another 30 seconds. But, that's a different story for Angie!

And Angie is currently right behind the flustered Monster. From what I can see she is amassing power to fire off her skill.

And on that—— I used Cancel!

「Wha-!? This is——」(Angie)

In surprise Angie's jade-like eyes were wide open.

Angie's guardian spirit, its shape suddenly changed and covered her entire body like armor.

"Elemental Link"—— So that was the Special Skill she chose huh.

Even in the game it was a powerful skill that could be called a "finishing blow". The activation took a long time to complete, and the energy consumption was also intense, but it had a far more powerful effect than a normal skill

"Special Skills" were something that individual High-Class and above Jobs possessed.

Just learning the skill required quite a bit of effort and determination. So she was able to acquire it somehow huh? That question still remains, but it looks like she will be fine.

Well, Angie latent abilities are quite high level, so I guess it's alright for her to

use it.

And to prepare this Special Skill requires a considerable amount of time—  
But with Me in the mix the time can easily be reduced.  
If I use Cancel then the charging time will become 0 after all.

「T-This, is it because of Hitto's powers?」(Angie)

「That's right! But if I use it once it will take time until I can use it again! So use it to finish this!」(Hitto)

After all, the time interval increases when used on magic or skills with powerful effects.

Because I used Cancel on this skill, it seems like I have to wait one minute before I can use Cancel on Angie again.

But, with a number that big, I expect great things from it.

「U-Understood! I'll end this! Here I come! Sylphid Dance!」(Angie)

Since she was waiting for the Monster to return to its old position, Angie activated her skill immediately. The offensive skill that she is probably most proficient in clashed against the Monster.

Angie's strikes were powered up by the Elemental Link, compared to earlier her strength is leaps and bounds higher.

With rotating around like a righteous gale, she stepped in circles with her enemy as the center. Carried by the wind, her blade flew so fast that I almost couldn't keep up and it repeatedly assaulted the Monster.

Matching with Angie's movements, a vortex started to form in the surroundings, and it soon turned into a tornado.

A deafening roar of wind resounded. Like a storm the wind pressure devastated the surroundings, if I let down my guard then I might be blown away as well.

Being torn to pieces by that storm, the Monsters screams rang out in the area.

He never made a single noise when we landed other attacks, but now his cries signal the end of this battle.

And from within that tornado came an elegant battle maiden dancing in

midair.

Rotating once in the air she landed by my feet, and at the same time the skill effect ended and her full body shield fell apart, and returned into to form of a small wolf.

Was that the only energy that was consumed I wonder.

「aaah!」

「Whoa!」

Her legs buckled, and as her balance crumbled I supported her. This is the second time today.

「I, I'm sorry. I, recently learned that skill, so, I really am pathetic」(Angie)

「That isn't true at all. It was thanks to Angie that we defeated it」(Hitto)

The tornado dissipated, and there stood the mysterious Monster, its body covered with blood as it fell to the floor on its back.

It won't be getting up again.

「Don't be stupid..... It was because of Hitto's power that I was able to defeat it—— If Hitto wasn't here then I would be.....」(Angie)

Angie raised her face, and looked at me with the jade-green eyes.

The moist eyes, I couldn't take my gaze off of them. As if I was being sucked in——

「Goshujin-sama——！」

Snapping back to reality, Angie and I quickly separated, and we turned to face different walls

I-It's not what you think! Just now was uhh that thing! We were just basking in our victory!

「Haa, haa, I'm so glad Goshujin-sama is alright——」

When I turned to look at her, Melissa was catching her breath. Afterwards she wiped her eye with her finger, and showed me a look of relief.  
It seems she was really worried about me.

And, I greeted Melissa with a warm smile as she ran over to me.

「Melissa, thanks for worrying about me. But it's alright now. We defeated

that Monster, and with this the mines should be operational again」(Hitto)

「Yes—— But it may be rude of me to say, but I am more happy to hear of Goshujin-sama's safety. In addition——」(Melissa)

Melissa turned to face Angie.

「I'm also glad that Angie is alright——」(Melissa)

Melissa looked at her with a smile of relief.

..... But, Angie only turned away from Melissa's gaze.

「U-Umu! Hitto's strength was very big you know! A-As expected of, M-Melissa's, G,Goshujin-sama[1], right!」(Angie)

That's not it! Why are you so flustered! Why are you hiding from Melissa's gaze, rather, why can't you even face her! You're wrong! The thing before is not like that, you hear! We didn't even do anything!

「..... Ano, did something happen?」(Melissa)

「It's nothing, Melissa!」(Hitto)

「It is nothing at all Melissa!」(Angie)

H,Hey! Why are our voices in-sync now of all times!

「O-Okay then.....」(Melissa)

Not good, she looks a bit suspicious. In that case now I should-!

「Alrighty! At any rate we should collect the materials we need! We have to report back to the Guild too!」(Hitto)

「U-Understood, you are right, Goshujin-sama. Allow me to help you out」(Melissa)

「Y-yes that's right. Then I will assist as well」(Angie)

Phew, I distracted her somehow..... Well, either way—— guess we should collect some materials huh.

# Chapter 40 “Knight Angie’s True Colors”

「For now we’ve finished collecting the raw materials」(Hitto)

Phew, I wiped my brow and took a breath. We had to gather the raw materials from 500 orggs after all.

I had Melissa and Angie to lend a hand, but it still took quite a long time.

The raw material for these orggs was the horn on their heads. Apparently if you boiled it in medicine then it would add an energizing effect to your body. As for the color, apparently the Guild can tell them apart depending on the size and subtle difference in shape.

And then there’s the King Orgg. It seems that it fell down from the ceiling some time ago when we were fighting with that Monster, but it should be easy to tell the difference due to it’s size.

The orggs also had a number of weapons on hand, but according to Melissa their value doesn’t amount to much.

There’s a limit to how much we can put in the magic bag, so we decided to leave behind the weapons.

Just the horns alone would take up a lot of space after all.

It’s just, there’s still one more thing to take care of. Yes, it was the mysterious Monster.

「I’m not even sure which part we should take as proof that we killed it——」(Hitto)

「In that case you should just take back everything from the neck up. The Guild might be able to figure something out by looking at it’s horn」(Angie)

I see, that certainly might be the case. I cut off the Monster’s head and placed it into the magic bag.

「Goshujin-sama, there is a possibility that this weapon might be worth a good amount. It will also make as a good ingredient so——」(Melissa)

Fumu, is that so. As expected of Melissa, when I praised her she looked like

she was about to cry tears of joy.

Well, for now let's take along the giant hammer as well.

「Now then, with this my duty has come to an end. The problem has been resolved as well. But I am glad that I was able to meet you two, so thank you」(Angie)

Angie held out her right hand as she said that. She probably wanted to exchange handshakes.

The first to accept was Melissa.

And then I also grabbed onto her hand, but—

「After this handshake you will be leaving already?」(Hitto)

“Eh?” Hearing me say that, she looked surprised.

I could tell she hesitated for a moment though.

「Then before you go I would like to ask you something. What did you come here for?」(Hitto)

Angie's eyebrow quickly jumped up.

「As I said I am just a wandering——」(Angie)

「Come on now, would a wandering knight be wearing the armor of an ambassador for the kingdom?」(Hitto)

As I continued to press my attacks, her expression became even more bewildered.

“Why do you know that?” Is what she's probably thinking, but her outfit is the same one the imperial knights of the kingdom wore back in the game. A design where the armor around the sides of the chest were left open, I remember it very well.

An Imperial Knight of the Kingdom was different from the normal knights that each feudal lord had, they were assigned to military posts around the royal capital or stationed at various fortresses. Well, in other words there were the elites in terms on knights.

And, even though her armor doesn't have any royal coat of arms etched on it, well, it was probably purposely removed to hide her social status.

However, even still it was a pretty high-class item, and I think people who see

it could easily understand that but—It's just that this armor is used exclusively for high ranking knights, so your average citizen might not be able to recognize it.

Or rather, that is likely the case.

When Angie was met with my gaze, she looked like she was growing suspicious.

Did it somehow end up as a distrustful atmosphere instead?

「Before I came to this territory, I was somewhat of a wandering traveler you see. I've had the chance to see imperial knights plenty of times」(Hitto)

「A traveler? Is that true?」(Angie)

「Yes. I was saved by Goshujin-sama during my journey, and he is allowing me to accompany him this time」(Melissa)

With a smile on her face Melissa proceeded to explain how she was attacked by thieves.

And then I also spoke the truth about how I only just registered as an adventurer after coming to this land.

If we speak without holding back any secrets, then I hope that the other party will come to believe us.

「With strength such as yours I find it a bit farfetched that you are just a Beginner.....」(Angie)

「It's true though. Have a look」(Hitto)

I showed Angie my adventurer's license. My adventurer rank is written on there after all.

「It's true..... Even so, your abilities are quite frightening」(Angie)

Well, let's take that as a compliment.

「And so, Angie, are you really an imperial knight?」(Hitto)

「..... I see. If you were able to see through me to such an extent then there's no point in hiding it. It is true, I am an imperial knight of this kingdom, The Garou Kingdom. Quite frankly, I just so happened to hear of some suspicious rumors regarding this territory's feudal lord」(Angie)

「"Suspicious" you say.....」(Hitto)

I unconsciously repeated Angie's words. I'm honestly not surprised. It's not just about 'suspicious rumors' after all. The current state of things is considerably screwed up.

「From the way you're acting, do you have some idea what they are about?」(Angie)

「I don't even know where to start」(Hitto)

Melissa and I both began explaining what had happened until now.

「A massive increase in taxes, and collecting 50% of your bank deposits? What is with that! There's no way such tyranny should be allowed!」(Angie)

Angie shouted out a righteous retort but, I thought so. The system was also really different from the game's after all.

「It seems like the citizens of this land have been suffering quite a lot. Between the bank and other restrictions, there's also the fact that they can only withdraw 10% a month. Is it different for other places?」(Hitto)

「Of course it is. If that sort of thing was widespread then the country would without a doubt be in upheaval. In the first place, the bank should be cooperating with the kingdom and sharing information. Under normal circumstances such a ridiculous thing should have been discovered immediately but ——」(Angie)

Angie lowered her chin as she said that, and looked as if she had just realized something.

「Do you have an idea?」(Hitto)

Being curious about Angie's action I asked her a question.

「No, I was just wondering why the kingdom was unable to realize that this was going on even after things got this bad. To begin with, now that I think about it, today is the first time I heard that the feudal lord had changed」(Angie)

The first time she heard of it? Is that really even possible?

「Melissa, do you happen to know about the Duke of Arts, the previous feudal

lord?」(Angie)

Angie asked her that question

「Yes. Previously the taxes weren't as high as they are now, and the bank did not do things such as collect interest for themselves」(Melissa)

「I see..... So this tyranny only started when the feudal lord changed—— Was the lordship passed down to his heir? I think I've heard that he had an only son」(Angie)

「Yes. I have heard that was the case. However I think that there weren't many bad rumors in the past.....」(Melissa)

「So that's how it is. I wonder what happened when the lord assumed his position..... Was there no problems at that time——」(Angie)

When Angie muttered that question, Melissa answered with a "No".

「It is probably because none of the citizens knew about it..... I believe that practically no one has ever seen the present lord's face」(Melissa)

No one?

「Melissa, what do you mean by that?」(Hitto)

Angie looked doubtful as she wore a grimace, but I was also curious about this.

「Yes, Goshujin-sama. This is only what I have heard, but even though the lord-sama inherited his position, the citizens only came to know about the change because of an official notice. He has never once made an appearance at a public venue」(Melissa)

「That's absurd! If a new feudal lord is instated within the kingdom, then at the very least they should hold a public ceremony to greet the citizens. It is a well established tradition, and yet they didn't even do that.....」(Angie)

“Hmmm,” Angie seems to be racking her brains out, but leaving aside the typical traditions, to think that no one has ever seen him huh.

「This whole thing smells a bit fishy」(Hitto)

「Yes, I think so too. It seems like I should temporarily head back to the royal

castle to report all this.....」(Angie)

Angie placed her hand on her chin, she spoke up as she continued to circulate her thoughts.

Even so, the castle huh. It seems like my suspicious were correct that she's a high ranking imperial knight.

The royal castle was erected in the center of the royal capital.

The kingdom's chivalric order should be a collection of elites. Considering that I can understand why she was so strong.

「So the reason why you spoke with the miners, is because you were investigating the current feudal lord?」(Hitto)

「Yes. But I as I was asking I heard about the large number of monsters that had appeared. I didn't get to hear much about the lord, but thanks to Hitto and Melissa I've learned about a lot of things. You have my gratitude」(Angie)

「Don't mention it. And so Angie, will you really be returning back?」(Hitto)

「That's what I intend to do. Well, I do plan on having a look around with my own eyes though」(Angie)

「I see. Is there something we can help you with?」(Hitto)

「..... I appreciate the sentiment, but there is a possibility that this incident will evolve into a majorly troublesome one. And so—— though you might find it offensive.....」(Angie)

「You don't want to get us involved, is that it?」(Hitto)

When I said what I think she was trying to say, Angie nodded with an "Umu."

「I'm sorry. That's honestly what I wanted to say」(Angie)

She returned those words while silently lowering her head. She really is too formal huh, this knight-san.

「Don't mind it. I'm sure you have to consider your standing. But about the bank, I would like to ask if you can do something about it. We've had 1 million Gold promptly stolen from us after all」(Hitto)

「Understood, I will try my best」(Angie)

「Thanks for the help. Well, we will also do some research while trying to stay inconspicuous.」(Hitto)

Well it's only as insurance in regards to the bank though. We also have to think of ways to handle it ourselves, but it would be a lie to say I'm not interested in the feudal lord.

「..... I guess there's no stopping you at this point. However, I want you to not do anything reckless. Although this is just a personal request.」(Angie)

Lowering her brow, she voiced her concern. Even though we just met, to think she would be so worried about us. I feel grateful for it.

「Okay then. Well, I also don't want to do anything too dangerous either.」(Hitto)

After our talk Angie headed for the exit first.

It would've been great if we could leave together, but it seems like she really needs to report on what has been happening.

And I still had a job to do. We still had to collect iron ore and magic stones after all.

Incidentally it was decided that I would be the one to receive the reward. Apparently it was because I played a bigger role in this incident, although I think she was being overly humble.

Well, it doesn't seem like she will back down on this so I'll give in this time.

「All things considered, Melissa. I have a few questions. Since he never showed his face, and the lord imposed heavy taxes on this territory, has anyone ever considered running away from this place?」(Hitto)

After we saw off Angie, on our way back Melissa and I collected the raw materials from the orggs and also recovered the articles and adventurer licenses of the adventurers who sacrificed their lives.

While we were on-route I was curious about a few things so I decided to ask Melissa.

「That would be unthinkable, Goshujin-sama! It is impossible to run away from a lord's territory!」(Melissa)

Impossible?

「What do you mean by that? Is it hard to escape because there's a fortress at the borders or something?」(Hitto)

Even with that I don't think it would be 'impossible' to run away though.

「Rather than a fortress..... Since the feudal lord-sama doesn't allow it, it is impossible to escape from this territory——」(Melissa)

..... Well yea. If you asked the feudal lord "Can we run away?" there's no way he would just say "Sure, that's fine"—— I continued to ask questions, but I still can't quite understand why they can't leave the territory—— Hmmmm.....